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Hafa Adai!

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CUC lowers power charge

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is lowering its power bill this month.

In a notice issued Friday, CUC said it will be lowering its Fuel Adjustment Charge this December from $0.15063 per kilowatt hour to $0.14323 per kWh effective Dec. 1, 2016. The Fuel Adjustment Charge used to be called the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause.

The decrease is equivalent to 4.91 percent. The FAC is one of two components that make up one's CUC power bill. The first, FAC, reflects how much fuel costs in Singapore; the second is the electric base rate, which fund operations and projects as well as debt servicing.

With the change in the FAC charge, all residential consumers who use 500 kWh can expect to save about $3.70 in their monthly billing.

See CUC on Page 4

Yamamoto: Hocog promised to use his position, influence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has directly named Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, saying the former Rota senator allegedly promised to use his political position and influence to ensure that Yamamoto's investment in M/V *Luta* would be profitable.

Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, specified Hocog in an amended lawsuit he filed in federal court on Thursday against Hocog and some owners of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.399 million that he contributed for the vessel.

Yamamoto's original complaint only used the term "certain defendants" to describe those engaged in the deals.

Yamamoto's amended complaint has the same set of defendants and claims—breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

Aside from Hocog, Yamamoto is also suing M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, Fi-

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Senate confirms Mafnas as NMC regent

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy corporate director Zenie Mafnas was confirmed as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents during an emergency Senate hearing last Dec. 2.

Mafnas was approved by the Senate to take over Frank Rabauliman's place as one of the regents of the CNMI's lone community college.

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TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Children from Garapan Elementary School line up in front of a Christmas tree in preparation for Hyatt Regency Saipan's annual tree lighting ceremony, which also commemorates Hyatt's 36 years on Saipan.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

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Local

Judge authorizes another maritime arrest vs M/V *Luta*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal court judge has authorized issuing another warrant for the maritime arrest of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood on Wednesday ordered the clerk of court to issue a warrant of maritime arrest after she reviewed the complaint filed by Norton Lilly International, Inc.

Norton Lilly is an Alabama corporation that recently filed a complaint of intervention in order to collect from M/V *Luta* $131,801.10 in alleged unpaid goods and services.

Norton Lilly, through counsel Bruce Berline, asked the court to order the sale of M/V *Luta* and that proceeds of the sale be applied to satisfy the judgment.

Berline stated in the complaint that Luta Mermaid LLC president Abelina T. Mendiola entered into an agreement with Norton Lilly for it to supply necessities to M/V *Luta*.

Berline said that, from June 18, 2016 to Nov. 2, 2016, Norton Lilly was the agent of M/V *Luta* on Saipan and Guam, arranging for and/or shipping services for the vessel.

The lawyer said the services include stevedoring, time handling mooring, dockage, cargo/wharf storage, and terminal handling charges.

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta*. In his lawsuit, Yamamoto alleged that Hocog and his co-defendants refused to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, Fidel Mendiola Jr., and Robert Toelkes.

Luta Mermaid owns M/V *Luta*. Abelina Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, and Deron Mendiola are members of the company.

Abelina Mendiola is based on Rota, while Fidel Mendiola is a resident of Louisiana, and Deron Mendiola is a resident of Idaho, according to court papers. Yamamoto is suing them for breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

The U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* last Oct. 25 and appointed the National Maritime Services Inc. as custodian of the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the case in federal court, two companies, including Norton Lilly, and crewmembers of M/V *Luta*, also joined in the lawsuit.

The captain and six other crewmembers of M/V *Luta* have also intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit, because they allegedly have not been paid their wages, totaling $183,647.77.

Long Consulting LLC, a limited liability company, has also claimed a maritime lien on M/V *Luta* after the vessel's owners/operators allegedly failed to repay any part of their $300,000 loan.

Hocog recently filed a motion asking the court to dismiss Yamamoto's lawsuit.

Hocog, through Guam-based counsel Jeffrey A. Moots, asserted that there is nothing to indicate that he participated in any of the factual

See JUDGE on Page 4

Man allegedly burglarizes aunt's house

Police arrested in Kagman on Thursday a 32-year-old man who allegedly burglarized the house of his aunt and stole a box of breakfast cereals, two packs of cookies, and eight cartons of milk.

Joaquin R. Kaainoa was arrested for burglary and theft.

Police said Kaainoa confessed during an interview last Nov. 27 to burglarizing his aunt's house last Nov. 26 at 11pm while his aunt and family were asleep.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed $11,000 cash bail for Kaainoa's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 9 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski was appointed as counsel for Kaainoa. Assistant attorney general Bobby Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

Police detective Harold K. Wabol stated in his report that he responded to a residence in Kagman 3 last Nov. 27 where the burglary happened.

Wabol said that, according to the victim, when she returned home from church she noticed that the purse she left on the couch was open and the contents were scattered on the couch.

The victim went to the kitchen, where she noticed that a box of Rice Krispies and two packs of Oreo cookies were missing from the counter.

She suspected that her nephew, Kaainoa, was responsible for the burglary because her husband caught him in the back of their house last October.

Wabol said last Nov. 27 he met with Kaainoa, who confessed to burglarizing the house while his aunt and her family were asleep.

The suspect was then arrested.

Wabol said the victim's daughter disclosed that last Nov. 27 to 28 during midnight hours she saw from her bedroom a flash of light toward the living room. The daughter heard the refrigerator in the kitchen open and close but that she was too scared to move or check. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Water service interruption in As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido and Koblerville

There will be a water service interruption in As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido and Koblerville today, Dec. 5, 2016, from 8am to 5pm.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be replacing two defective water gate valves on Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road between Judy's Café and the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito. By replacing the defective gate valves CUC will have a greater ability of redirecting water within its water distribution system in the general area.

The public is advised to take alternative routes and proceed with caution as one lane will be closed during the construction. Water service will be restored to regular service hours soon thereafter.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and CUC.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

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BOE chair gives comments on bills that affect PSS

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero attended last Tuesday's session of the House of Representatives to raise concerns over three pending bills that might have a direct or slight impact on the Public School System.

House Bills 19-23, 19-71, and 19-103 were on the bill calendar but the body did not act on it during their fourth session held at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

HB 19-23 was introduced by House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and aims to raise the CNMI's minimum wage to the federal level of $7.25 an hour in increments. The measure is almost the same as HB 19-187 authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

The Senate last October passed HB 19-23 with amendments, incorporating Rep. Angel Demapan's (R-Saipan) intention in 19-187, which pushes the minimum wage straight to the federal level of $7.25.

According to Guerrero, HB 19-23 would affect some of the programs offered by the PSS like the free meals served to students from low-income families. "I wonder if it would have a significant impact on PSS in terms of personnel but it would [affect] programs that we provide."

He added that the U.S. government provides the funding where they also set the amount that they give to PSS. If the bill passes, an increase in minimum wage means the food providers that have contracts with PSS would also raise their prices to augment the cost of their employees' salaries based on the new hourly rate.

"The question now is who should pay the extra? Are the students, the parents, school or is the government willing to cough up additional funding for it," said Guerrero.

HB 19-71, meanwhile, would require CNMI public elementary schools—elementary, middle, and high schools—to prepare and submit their budget proposal for each fiscal year where it would be incorporated with those that the BOE chair and education commissioner would provide the Legislature.

Guerrero said the BOE and PSS do not support HB 19-71 since they separately submit the budget proposals. "But if [the Legislature] would to put it on resolution format, that would be much better as a way to remind us."

"At the same time I directed the education commissioner that for next year we would include also the school submission separately from what the PSS would eventually submit," he added.

HB 19-03, if it becomes a law, would waive all contractual obligations of all CNMI students that received grants from the Educational Assistance Program and the Special Scholarship under Public Law 7-32. Guerrero said the government should go after individuals who no longer have an interest in coming back to the CNMI.

However, he added that there are still some who went back to the CNMI after they graduated from college.

"At least some have shown an interest in also paying back their obligations to the government. Either they are working in the government or in the private sector."

"It is an indication of their desire to continue their residency here rather than somebody else that received grants and never comes back. I understand that they get better job opportunities somewhere else but if they do so, that's their personal choice."

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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of $247.56 or $114.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,824.32.

MHS students dismissed early due to water issues

Marianas High School students were dismissed early last Friday around 9:30am due to a water issue that prevented them access to the restrooms for several hours.

MHS principal Sherlyn Cabrera said, "We have a water situation that we weren't able to fix. …We've been trying to fix it since yesterday and all this morning, but there's a time limit that if students were to not have any access to water for two hours, the school is forced to let them go home."

The school's own lifespan was the underlying cause.

"Our school is very old, built in 1967, so there are some infrastructure problems in our water pipes, electricity, pump, and water tank, making it several different factors. We're aware it can be problematic and we have been dealing with it for some time now. This is actually the first time since I've been here that we had to release the students," Cabrera said.

Catherine Biscocho, a senior in MHS, said, "I'm kind of disappointed in the water interruption today. It is the right call though since things might get really bad if there were to be an emergency here in the school."

"CUC has been working with us and I was keeping in touch with our commissioner the whole time. When it reached a certain number of hours and the problem was still not resolved, she made the decision to release the students," Cabrera said. "The problem should be resolved by today, and classes can continue as usual on Monday." ***(Michael T. Santos)***

YAMAMOTO

From Page 1

del Mendiola Jr., and Robert Toelkes. Luta Mermaid LLC owns M/V *Luta*.

According to Hasselback in the lawsuit, Abelina Mendiola, Deron Mendiola, and Fidel Mendiola III are managers/shareholders of Luta Mermaid.

Toelkes is a resident of Berrytown, Kansas.

Yamamoto's amended complaint has the same court requests: that the vessel, her engines, tackle, furniture, apparel, appurtenances, bunkers, and other necessaries be condemned and sold to pay his demands, including interest and costs.

Yamamoto also requested the court to recover his attorney's fees, expenses, and court costs.

The plaintiff asked the court to order defendants provide a complete and accurate accounting of the disposition of any and all funds he contributed to them for the purchase and operation of M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto began visiting Rota as a tourist in 2013. Over the course of several trips, he became acquainted with then-senator Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr.

According to Hasselback in the complaint, Hocog would encourage Yamamoto to invest personally in business opportunities on Rota.

Hasselback said Hocog assured Yamamoto that his position as a CNMI senator and prominent member of the community would benefit Yamamoto, making assurances that Yamamoto would be well looked after in his business dealings on Rota.

Hasselback said in late 2013, Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr. approached Yamamoto about funding the purchase and operation of a commercial shipping vessel to be used to service Rota.

Hasselback said Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr. told Yamamoto that the Rota municipal government would also be funding the ship's purchase and operation.

Hasselback said Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr. promised Yamamoto that if he were to provide $600,000, the Rota local government would provide a matching amount. Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr. reportedly assured Yamamoto that the amount would be enough for the purchase and operation of the vessel.

"These statements made by Hocog and F. Mendiola Jr. were materially false and intended to induce plaintiff to provide money," Hasselback said.

Hasselback said that in January 2014, Yamamoto first funded the business by providing $700,000 to Kizuna Marine Inc., an entity that was initially formed by certain business associates of Yamamoto.

Yamamoto wired $700,000 into an account held by Kizuna Marine Inc.

Hasselback said F. Mendiola Jr. subsequently told Yamamoto that to comply with various laws and regulations regarding the operation of commercial shipping vessels, control over the entity funding these activities (Kizuna Marine Inc.) would have to be turned over to persons who were U.S. citizens. Hasselback said F. Mendiola convinced Yamamoto that he should put F. Mendiola Jr. in partial control of Kizuna Marine Inc.

Yamamoto's initial funding of $700,000 was not used for the acquisition of a vessel. Instead, F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola withdrew some, if not all, of the funds for their own personal benefit, Hasselback said.

This personal benefit, Hasselback said, included purchase of goods online for personal use, payment of personal credit card bills, and payment of educational expenses.

Hasselback said these expenditures of funds for personal benefit were done by, for the benefit of and/or with the knowledge and complicity of F. Mendiola III and D. Mendiola. Hasselback said F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola then told Yamamoto that another company, Luta Mermaid LLC, had to be formed to purchase the vessel.

Hasselback said these statements were made to induce Yamamoto to provide financial support for the business entity while furthering their fraudulent scheme.

Hasselback said Hocog spoke separately with Yamamoto and assured him that he could trust the word of F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola regarding these matters.

In March 2014, F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola again allegedly represented to Yamamoto that the Rota municipal government was poised to fund the business.

Again, Hasselback said, Hocog spoke separately to Yamamoto, telling him that he could trust the word of F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola, confirming that the Rota municipal government was poised to contribute to funding the shipping business and assuring him that his political and social status would ensure that the proposed business was successful.

Despite these assurances, the Rota municipal government did not contribute to the business as promised, Hasselback said.

At the urging of Hocog, F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola, Yamamoto advanced another $600,000 to the Luta Mermaid LLC in June 2014, Hasselback said.

Subsequently, Yamamoto went to Rota to meet with Hocog, F. Mendiola Jr., and A. Mendiola. During this trip, Hocog, F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola introduced Yamamoto to Toelkes.

Yamamoto was told that Toelkes was a "financial expert" that could help with financial management of the company, applying for loans and otherwise generating capital for the operation of the shipping business.

Hasselback said none of the defendants told Yamamoto that Toelkes had been involved in several failed business ventures.

Hasselback said Toelkes was intended to put Yamamoto at ease so that he would continue to provide money to the enterprise.

During this trip to Rota, Yamamoto demanded that someone produce some sort of financial status report to explain to him where his over a million dollars had gone, or was going.

In September 2014, F. Mendiola Jr. and A. Mendiola provided Yamamoto a document called "Luta Mermaid Expense Report," which was prepared by Toelkes.

Hasselback said this document acknowledged Yamamoto's funding of $1.2 million and also purported to provide an accounting of how that money was spent.

Hasselback said the accounting was fundamentally flawed, incomplete, and misleading.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CUC

From Page 1

A Saipan resident, Don Cabrera, said, "I don't really see much of a benefit from this. I do acknowledge that there is money to be saved but it is not significant enough to be really happy about. Since there are just two people in my household, we don't use that much electricity in general. I believe this sort of thing would benefit big companies and hotels due to their large usage on electricity."

Another resident, Rovic Caberos, said, "It's always good to save money in any way possible but I personally don't feel like it saves all that much. Our power bill at home has always been manageable. I'm sure in the long run I will save enough."

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands but was ultimately altered to FAC in order to provide a more accurate description of rates. Adjustments in the FAC are made when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent degree of difference on the average-per-gallon cost in fuel. MOPS is the average of a set of Singapore-based oil product price assessments published by Platts, a global energy, petrochemicals, metals and agriculture information provider.

A fuel adjustment charge is a change in cost of power to compensate for increases or decreases, usually unanticipated, in the price of energy.

CNMI consumers have experienced an almost 54-percent decline in power prices compared to the fuel rate in mid-2014.

Adjustment will also be applicable to public outdoor street lighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains, and operates such facilities.

JUDGE

From Page 2

allegations.

Former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario first filed a lawsuit against Hocog over M/V *Luta*. Last May, DelRosario filed the taxpayer's lawsuit against Hocog and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota resolution without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of $400,000 to Luta Mermaid, a private company owned by Hocog's relatives.

SENATE

From Page 1

"Once I join the Board of Regents, I am going to have to look at the different programs more closely. Right now, I did my basic research and from there, I can gather the status of how it is now," she said.

During the public comments section of the hearing, numerous NMC staff were vouched their support for Mafnas, who is a former NMC adjunct instructor and student.

Pastor Ray Kinsella, senior pastor of Mafnas' high school, Grace Christian Academy, was also present at the hearing.

"One thing I will say, she is a person of integrity. She is one who embraces and adheres to Christian values. She loves the people of the CNMI and is committed to seeing the CNMI grow and prosper," said Kinsella.

Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) and former representative and now Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance chair Oscar Babauta were also present at the hearing.

"I've known [Mafnas] for seven years. Her educational background and her leadership skills in her present position as deputy director of NMHC is a testament to her ability to serve as a regent," said Sablan.

Babauta also praised Mafnas in the vernacular.

Senate Executive Appointments & Government Investigations committee member Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said there's no question about Mafnas' ability to perform. "It is very clear that [Mafnas] is certainly very qualified for this position," said Palacios.

"I know that she is a very hardworking individual, very focused. In effect, I don't really have questions of her ability. I want to congratulate her for being nominated by the governor and the lieutenant governor."

Senate EAGI committee member Teresita Santos (R-Rota) agreed with Palacios.

"A review of your résumé speaks volumes of your educational background, with very consistent and strong emphasis in the field of accounting," said Santos.

"Your oral testimony confirms what is written in your résumé; in fact, your oral testimony further strengthen your goal and objectives for our campuses on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Having said all these, we trust that you can make a positive impact at NMC for the best interest of our students and our community alike," added Santos

Senate EAGI committee vice chair Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) was happy that Mafnas returned to Saipan after gaining her master's degree at the Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"I have no questions or comments on your credentials," said Quitugua. "I am really glad that after all these years of sacrifices to obtain credentials, you [Mafnas] decided to come home and see what you can do to serve our people, and I am so grateful for that."

Quitugua, who also cited the nominating committee at NMC for nominating Mafnas, suggested that NMC look into accommodating students from high school that are taking up college courses. Quitugua suggested collaborating with the CNMI Scholarship Office regarding this.

Mafnas herself was honored by the number of supporters who testified for her.

"I am very humbled by their support. I am very appreciative; I am very overwhelmed, I didn't expect a big number coming. I also want to thank the senators for doing this expeditiously but also by complying with the Office of the Attorney General's requirements. I'm excited to work with NMC, if confirmed," she said.

Mafnas was chosen by NMC's regent nominating committee, which was then passed on to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for appointment along with other candidates before being approved by the Senate.

Man in jail again, this time for sexual assault

A 20-year-old man who was arrested in October for indecent exposure was arrested again last week, this time for allegedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl and a woman in separate occasions on Saipan.

Travis Gumataotao Villagomez was arrested on charges of two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, two charges of disturbing the peace, and one count of contempt. His bail was set at $25,000 cash on Friday; preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 7 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Villagomez.

A police officer responded to a home in Chalan Laulau last Nov. 28 after receiving a disturbing the peace call. The officer met a grandmother, who stated that Villagomez touched the privates of her two granddaughters. Villagomez was arrested.

Police detective John Anthony Hofschneider stated that based on his investigations, the 16-year-old girl and her family were swimming at the Grotto last Nov. 20.

The victim said that Villagomez, who swam behind her, touched her right side. Villagomez also later rubbed his privates against her. The girl told Villagomez to move away.

Last Nov. 27, while attending the opening of the Christmas Village in Susupe, the 16-year-old girl and a woman were walking around the place when Villagomez, who was with his girlfriend, allegedly touched the woman's butt and then slapped her butt twice.

Hofschneider said the 16-year-old girl told police that Villagomez has been touching her inappropriately since she was a 2nd grader. She never told anyone about it as she was scared.

Villagomez was also identified as the suspect of an incident near Saipan Southern High School, where he exposed his privates to a student and invited young girls into this vehicle for a "sex party." Villagomez posted bail in that case. The case is still pending in court.

NMI now has chance to get key Trump posts

The CNMI is in a good position to get key posts in the administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump because of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' position as co-chair of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Advisory Committee. Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo is Torres' co-chair.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and Special Assistant to the President for Territories and Commonwealths are two other positions that a person from the CNMI could be appointed that would improve its chances of raising issues and other concerns that would have a direct impact on the Commonwealth.

Trump nominating Elaine Chao to head the Department of Transportation also increases the chances of someone from the CNMI to be appointed. Chao, who was Labor secretary during the two terms of President George W. Bush, is a member of the AAPI advisory committee.

Someone from American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Hawaii—before its statehood—had already been appointed to the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs position but no one from the CNMI since it became a Commonwealth in 1978.

David Cohen is from American Samoa while Tony Babauta and Esther Kia'aina, the outgoing Assistant Secretary, are both from Guam.

The Office of Insular Affairs is responsible for administration of U.S. commonwealths, island possessions, and territories. They also oversee the freely associated status of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Puerto Rico, although a commonwealth and an unincorporated U.S. territory, is not under the OIA jurisdiction but has the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration that coordinates with the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and Special Assistant to the President for Territories and Commonwealths must have a wide knowledge and understands the issues that affect the Pacific.

A Republican-controlled leadership would also help the CNMI's cause since the Commonwealth was the only territory that supported the nomination and campaign of Trump and Gov. Mike Pence, who is now the Vice President-elect. ***(Jon Perez)***

What are assets of the Settlement Fund?

The NMI government, the NMI Retirement Fund, and the NMI Settlement Fund have jointly submitted in federal court on Friday an agreement about the ownership of assets belonging to the Settlement Fund.

The agreement was signed by Settlement Fund counsel Dean Manglona and NMI government and NMI Retirement Fund counsel Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

According to the agreement, or stipulation, the Settlement Fund is a not-for-profit, tax exempt entity created by the court-approved settlement dated Aug. 6, 2013, in connection with Betty Johnson's class action lawsuit.

The parties agree that the Settlement Fund is not a pension plan and it does not operate or manage a pension plan.

The settlement agreement provides that the Settlement Fund shall "accept the transfer of the assets of the CNMI Fund as provided in this agreement, and to own the consent judgment entered by the District Court upon final approval as specified in this agreement…"

The assets that were transferred to the Settlement Fund and now owned and controlled solely by the Settlement Fund include, but not limited to, the Judicial Building Loan note, and the leasehold interest(s) in real property that was transferred from the CNMI Fund to the Settlement Fund (to the extent allowed under CNMI law).

The other assets include all bonds, securities, investments, and cash accounts held in the name of the Settlement Fund, and payments to be made to the Settlement Fund under paragraphs 4 and 5 of the settlement agreement. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Judiciary to conduct 3rd Mock Trial Academy

On Dec. 10, 2016, the Commonwealth Judiciary will be conducting the 3rd Judiciary Mock Trial Academy to prepare students for the 2017 CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition and the National High School Mock Trial Championship.

The academy is intended to be a resource for students in the initial preparation for the CNMI and national competitions, similar to other jurisdictions that have the advantage of mock trial resources in law schools.

Students from Rota and Tinian will join their fellow competitors from Saipan at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe for the daylong session. Attorneys and experienced coaches will be giving presentations on topics including trial advocacy skills, evidence, cross-examination, opening argument, and closing argument. Over 150 students participated in the academy in 2014 and 2015.

"The academy's success is due to the extensive volunteer efforts of our legal community and the bright, young students who passionately participate in mock trial each year," said Deanna M. Ogo, co-coordinator of the High School Mock Trial Program.

The CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition will be held Feb. 16-17, 2017. The competition—sponsored by the Judiciary, Public School System, and the Bar Association—gives students an opportunity to learn about the judicial system, court procedures and the legal system.

Students will portray the role of attorneys and witnesses and present both the prosecution and defense sides of *Commonwealth v. Kelsey Reed*, a fictional cyberbullying case. Competitors will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case. Members of the bench and attorneys serve as the presiding judges and jurors.

The winning team will travel to the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 11-13, 2017, to compete with over 40 teams. ***(PR)***

HPO board rejects zipline project

Historical Preservation Office board members ponder their decision whether or not to concur with the proposed zipline project during a board meeting at the Office on Aging on Dec. 1.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

A zipline project in Marpi was rejected by members of the Historical Preservation Office board on Friday due to its possible impact on the historical value of the area.

Voting 3-2, HPO board members rejected the proposal submitted by Saipan Adventure Tours; the company has the opportunity to appeal the decision to the governor in hopes of having it move forward.

"We have mixed feelings. We're disappointed that despite our best efforts, the review board did not see it fit to concur to permit the zipline project," said Robert Torres, the lawyer for Saipan Adventure Tours. "However, we do appreciate their time and effort in giving it fair consideration. We will review and determine whether to pursue the matter further or to end plans with the project."

Adventure Tours offered a compromise, such as creating a visitor's center with multi-media and interactive historical depictions of the area along with its history, limited hours between activities, ceasing activities during ceremonies or memorials, and maintaining environmental integrity in the area.

Adventure Tours initially sought out the Marpi area. After applying for a permit lease from Mt. Tapochau to the Gualo Rai area, the project was rejected by the Department of Public Lands. The zipline project now would have extended from the top of Suicide Cliff to the corner of Banzai approaching the Cow Town area—around a mile long. If constructed, it would have been a set of four lines, setting itself as one of the longest in the region.

HPO review board chair, Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei, said, "Why are we not educating our people about the historical significance of our island? …We have developers who want to help our economy and make business but our role in HPO is to balance everything for the long term."

"It's hard for me to just say yes, since it is good for us and they [Adventure Tours] are offering educational programs, but why aren't we doing the educating now?" Rechebei added. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Hillbroom hires Palau lawyer, looks for local counsel

Junior Larry Hillbroom has hired a new lawyer from Palau and is looking for a lawyer in the CNMI to serve as his local counsel in connection with his lawsuit in federal court against his former counsels, David J. Lujan and Barry Israel, and trustee Keith Waibel.

At a status conference held in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday, Hillbroom, who is currently detained in Palau, appeared telephonically.

According to the minutes of the conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona addressed the issue of Hillbroom's efforts to obtain new counsel.

The Girardi and Keese law firm withdrew as original counsel for Hillbroom. Attorney Mark Hanson also withdrew as local counsel for Hillbroom.

At the status conference, Hillbroom disclosed that he hired attorney Vameline Singeo to represent him and that once they find local counsel in the CNMI to work with, they can submit all the motions that are going forward. He also stated that there are no plans to change the trial date of his lawsuit.

Hillbroom stated that if a local counsel is found, they are ready to show up in all depositions.

Saipan Tribune learned that Singeo was formally sworn in as a Palauan lawyer in February 2010. She graduated in 2009 from the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where she was a dean's lister.

Hillbroom is suing Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with a former trustee to inflate their attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceeding. He also sued trustee Waibel.

The trial of Hillbroom lawsuit is currently set for a jury trial on Feb. 22, 2017. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CUC Closed on Constitution Day

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) would like to inform the general public that its offices will be closed on **Thursday, December 8, 2016**, in observance of Constitution Day. Regular business hours will resume on Friday, December 9, 2016.

For emergencies, please contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC).

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
VACANT PROPERTIES - OORT OF SAIPAN

CPA-RFP-003-17

OCTOBER 27, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a lease contract for three (3) lots of real property leases of Authority property on Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Authority has three (3) vacant property lots available for lease in an area zoned for commercial/industrial.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, **Request for Proposals**, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Proposal requirements and property details can be picked up at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor – arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning Thursday, October 27, 2016, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Proposals must be received by the authority at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd floor – arrival building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 5, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

By: **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Acting Executive Director

Edward C. Arriola
Attorney-at-Law
Sablan Bldg., Suite 1-F
San Jose, Saipan
P.O. Box 501788
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 233-5507
Fax: (670) 233-5509

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATES OF	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0237**
LORENZO MANGLONA AYUYU AND ERNESTA CHONG AYUYU,	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Deceased.	**Date: December 22, 2016** **Time: 9:00 a.m.** **Judge: Joeseph N. Camacho**

To: All creditors, claimants, and Roman Chong Ayuyu.

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for letters of administration seeking appointment of **LEO S. PANGELINAN**, as Administrator of the Estates of LORENZO, MANGLONA AYUYU ("deceased") AND **ERNESTA CHONG AYUYU** ("deceased"), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 9:00 a.m., on December 22, 2016.

All persons who having any objection to the petition, or having a claim against the estate or the deceased, should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication.

Dated this 17th day of November, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Edward C. Arriola
Attorney-at-Law
Sablan Bldg., Suite 1-F
San Jose, Saipan
P.O. Box 501788
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 233-5507
Fax: (670) 233-5509

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ERNESTA CHONG AYUYU,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0241**
	NOTICE OF HEARING
Deceased.	**Date: December 22, 2016** **Time: 9:00 a.m.** **Judge: Joeseph N. Camacho**

To: All creditors, claimants, and Roman Chong Ayuyu.

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for letters of administration seeking appointment of LEO S. PANGELINAN, as Administrator of the Estate of ERNESTA CHONG AYUYU ("deceased"), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 220 of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 9:00 a.m., on December 22, 2016.

All persons who having any objection to the petition, or having a claim against the estate or deceased, should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-012
ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing building structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of a new well building, chlorination building, booster pump building, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 1st 2017.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The Bid Documents may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one Bid Documents package set. The Bid Documents consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **December 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A Site Visit of the CUC Rota Water facilities will be scheduled by CUC Rota thereafter. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) Original and Five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a **sealed envelope** marked "CUC-IFB-17-012 –Rota Water Supply Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Travis Spaeth, CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB17-GOV-041 Metal Roof Repair at the Department of Corrections
FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 80

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the metal roof repair project at the Department of Corrections facility in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available November 21, 2016 at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on December 07, 2016 at 9:00am ChST at the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before December 12, 2016 to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero.pa@gmail.com, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB17-GOV-041 Metal Roof Repair at the Department of Corrections.* For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 21, 2016 and the bid documents must be received no later than December 30, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at *9:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2017.* However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at *9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016.*

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

18 Pacific Century Fellows accomplish Hawaii mission

Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter fellows, its officials, and Pacific Century Fellows founder Mufi Hannemann, third row fourth from left, join First Hawaiian Bank executive vice president and head of Retail Banking Group Mitchell Nishimoto, seated third from right, and retired vice chair Ray Ono, seated second from right, for a group photo during a visit to Hawaii last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It was mission accomplished for the 18 Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter as they met with the respected leaders in the tourism, banking, military, and education sectors in Hawaii and learned a thing or two from them.

"The class trip to Hawaii was eye-opening, to say the least. We bore witness to a community in the midst of a cultural revival, met with leaders of local, federal, and state government, received a briefing from the U.S. military's Pacific Command, and broke bread with leaders of the private sector," said Brad Ruszala, one of the members of the Class of 2016 that had a four-day visit in Hawaii last month.

Ruszala and his 14 other fellows and three other graduates of Class of 2014 met with Bank of Hawaii chair and CEO Peter Ho and First Hawaiian Bank executive vice president Mitchell Nishimoto. The visitors also talked to Hawaii Visitor Convention Bureau senior vice president and chief marketing officer Jay Talwar, Embassy Suites Waikiki general manager Simeon Miranda, Sand Island senior vice president Vic Angoco, Dr. Trisha Watson of Honua Consulting, and Waikiki Improvement Association executive director Rick Egged.

"Mr. Egged briefed us on the development of Waikiki—the past, present, and upcoming developments that are part of a master plan, which not only benefits Waikiki, but the entire state and the tourism industry of Hawaii. These kinds of foresight, vision, and planning are what the CNMI needs to improve our tourism industry and the quality of lives of our residents," said Ruselle Zapanta, another member of Class of 2016.

The group also made stops at the Pacific Area Command Center in Camp Smith to meet deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command and Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield; University of Hawaii president David Lassner; and at the Waipahu High School.

Three fellows considered the visit at the high school in O'ahu and discussion with principal Keith Hayashi as highlights of their trip.

"What sets this high school apart from typical secondary institutions is its focus on helping students identify their passions and provide them the support and opportunities to chase their dreams," said Janice Castro, who is grants program manager at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

"The school encourages its students to enroll in one of six career pathways or 11 career academies. During our brief visit with the Academy of Natural Resources, the school had appointed two of its ambassadors from this academy to show us some of the projects they work on, which included aquaculture, farming, and forestry to name a few," Castro said.

Castro also cited the school's early college program, which she herself experienced.

"As a product of a running start program, I commend this high school for not only giving their students the ability to begin their postsecondary studies early, but shouldering these costs (with conditions) as well. That was the struggle my peers and I had while we were in a running start program—paying for tuition and books. Since we were still high school students, we were not able to avail of any scholarships or federal assistance yet," Castro said.

Waipahu High School' success could inspire the CNMI, said Carline Sablan.

"We were told that Waipahu was once a troubled high school before making a big turnaround. I think if you give students a chance to decide on what they want do, they would enjoy the activity more and be more engaged," Sablan said. "Hopefully, the CNMI can learn and have more programs similar to Waipahu's to educate our youth and get them thinking of their careers and give them a head start so that they can give back to the community."

Ruszala also became an instant fan of Waipahu High School, which reminds him of a school in the CNMI.

"They have an excellent academy program that is run by a passionate team of educators. What's happening in Waipahu parallels the quality programs undertaken by similarly passionate educators in our local institutions, specifically Kagman High School. After hearing about the academy program and what it took to make it successful, I knew my purpose for making this trip was to make the

Continued on Next Page

Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter fellows and officials met with Bank of Hawaii chair and CEO Peter Ho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The visiting Pacific Century Fellows (Marianas Chapter) and its officers join Waipahu High School officials for a group photo at one of the school's function rooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter fellows and officials take a group photo before taking a tour of the Polynesian Cultural Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From Page 8

connection between the leaders of the CNMI and Hawaii campuses," said Ruszala, who is Pacific Islands Club's sports, entertainment, and activities director.

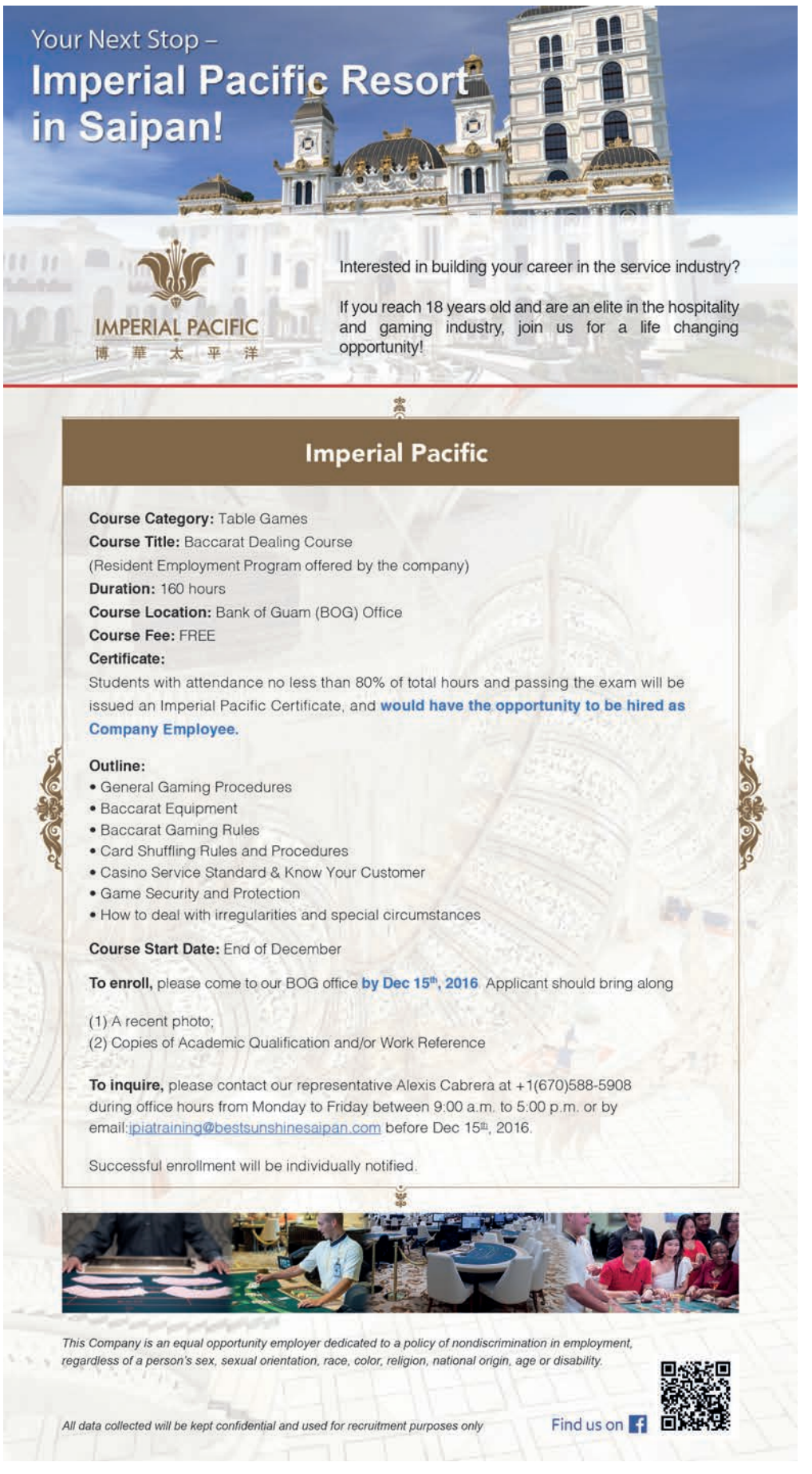
The Hawaii trip was the last for the Class of 2016 and was made possible through the initiative of Pacific Century Fellows of Hawaii founder Mufi Hannemann and support of Tan Siu Lin Foundation, TanHoldings, and Bank of Hawaii. The class, which had its first off-island trip last May in Guam, will have its graduation ceremony in January next year after participating in the 10-month program of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter.

The Jerry Tan-chaired Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a leadership development program modeled after the Pacific Century Fellows of Hawaii and aims to provide leadership learning opportunities and experiences for the people in the CNMI.

The Class of 2016 will be the third batch to complete the program. Other members of the class are Maryann Borja-Arriola, Catherine Attao-Toves, Joe Ayuyu Jr., Charles Brasington, Alexis Shawnee Cabrera, Derek Gersonde, Brady Hammond, Charles Reyes Jr., Jordan Sundell, Beau Tomokane, and Laarni Zapanta.

Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter and the program's officials tour the Rail Operation Center in Waipahu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

It'd be a blunder for Trump to undo Cuba progress

The death of longtime dictator Fidel Castro presents the U.S. with an opportunity it cannot waste—to end an embargo that has failed to produce desired results in more than half a century and to open the door to opportunity for both nations.

Doing so would not excuse the atrocities that occurred under Castro, or give a pass to repressions still occurring under Raul Castro. But the U.S. attitude toward Cuba has been disproportionately harsh and punitive, with little positive effect.

The thaw begun two years ago under President Obama, on the other hand, has produced immediate and beneficial results. Regrettably, it may be in jeopardy because of a hard line laid down by President-elect Donald Trump, who has declared that Cuba must progress on terms he sets or "I will terminate the deal."

That is no empty threat. Everything up to this point—resumption of commercial flights, limited tourism, reestablishment of mutual embassies and nascent business deals—is due to executive action by Obama and could be undone just as unilaterally. Congress so far has refused to budge on lifting the embargo resuming full relations.

Trump may simply be attempting to create maximum leverage for the U.S., as he would in a business deal. But this is more than that. It is nation-to-nation diplomacy and requires a sensitive touch.

Cuba has not stood still during the decades of embargo. With the help of other investors, it is poised for explosive growth in agriculture, energy, tourism and consumer goods. The new Port of Mariel, built with Brazilian investors, is prepared to become a major hub for container ships passing through the Panama Canal to the U.S. eastern seaboard and gulf.

U.S. stubbornness has come at a price. Consider that the U.S. once was the top supplier of agricultural commodities to Cuba's 11 million people. Farmers here lost out, while Cuba imported food from China and Brazil.

Rep. Tom Emmer, R.-Minn., a staunch advocate of both the incoming president and trade with Cuba, said he believes that while Trump talks tough, he won't let the opportunity slip through U.S. hands. "I see this more as positioning," said Emmer, who has been in touch with Trump's people on the issue. "He is concerned about resolution of the land dispute," Emmer said. "He wants to make sure Cuban patriots are heard. But the question is ... what does the U.S./Cuban relationship look like for the next 50 years? It's imperative that Republicans get on the right side of this. Healthy relationships form the basis of economic and national security, and I think Cuba is going to be part of that

See TRUMP on Next Page

Don't fall prey to bear propaganda

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

It's time for an open and frank national conversation about bear propaganda.

Having grown up in New York City, I had not been made aware of the problem until fairly late in life. This was remedied by my lovely wife, who grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska, where bears are not an abstraction. In policy terms, I was an idealist and she was a realist.

The issue didn't come up much during the wooing stage or the early years of our marriage. But as often happens with matters of core conviction, it was when we had a child that my wife's passion on the issue was made clear to me. Any time my daughter and I watched something on TV featuring a bear behaving like a cuddly companion or some majestic, gentle denizen of the woodlands for hippies or retirees to take pictures of, my wife would shout, "That's bear propaganda!"

I was once watching a credit card commercial with my daughter in which a middle-aged woman was fulfilling the dreams that only MasterCard or Visa can make reality. She sat on a bus snapping pictures of some glorious polar bear that came right up to her window.

At that moment, the mother of my child walked into the living room with a look on her face like she'd caught me watching "Apocalypse Now" with a 5-year-old. "Bear propaganda!" she shouted. "It wants to eat her face."

It's been one of the staples of home life. If we're watching a documentary about adorable bear cubs, she'll explain that they're just waiting to get big enough to eat our faces. Performing bears? Biding their time for the right moment to eat your face.

And even though my daughter and I tend to make fun of mommy's obsession, over the years I've become convinced.

The culture is shot-through with bear propaganda. Coca-Cola runs elegant Christmastime cartoons of polar bear families celebrating the season. Never mind that polar bears don't live in intact nuclear families. The males are cads who spend a few days with the single white females before scampering off to spend the rest of their lives as deadbeat dads. Also, if the supply of adorable (yet tasty!) seals runs low, the males have been known to eat bear cubs.

They also eat other things when the opportunity arises. Which is what prompted this column in the first place. Last month, a video of a polar bear palling around with a dog went viral, appearing on numerous news shows and eliciting a chorus of "awws" from audiences and anchors alike.

But experts in polar bear behavior recognized that the bear was checking it out the way an experienced shopper squeezes a cantaloupe.

Indeed, the bear was baited to come check out the dog so that a Canadian businessman could provide better photo-ops for tourists.

"To me, it's like it's trying to see if the food's ready or not," Tom Smith, a wildlife biologist, laughingly told the Washington Post. "It's not surprising that it would try to explore this dog ... but I guarantee if you left that bear there long enough, it would say, 'I wonder what this dog tastes like?'"

Well here's the good news: The bear didn't eat the dog. The bad news: It (or another bear) ate a different dog. Why? Because that's the kind of thing polar bears do.

But you wouldn't know that from popular culture. Every couple of months, a new big-budget animated film comes out—"Finding Dory," "The Secret Life of Pets," etc.—in which animals have human personalities. Many animal lovers think it's harmless and entertaining—and in one sense they're right. I like a lot of those movies.

But it's a remarkable thing if you take a step back and think about it. Many of these movies treat humans as the enemy—cruel, careless despoilers of the environment—while at the same time telling us that the highest compliment we can pay to animals is to assume they're just like us. These movies tell us virtually nothing about animals but a great deal about ourselves. Warthogs don't sing "No Worries," and sharks have never joined a support group that says "fish are friends, not food." By all means put down the crystal and swim with your spirit-animal dolphin friends. But bear in mind, male dolphins are rapists.

And should you get a chance to steal a hug from a polar bear or grizzly, don't be surprised when it eats your face.

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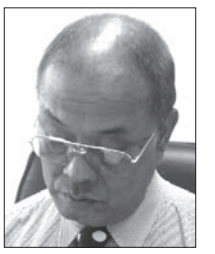
Shadows of godfathers



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Life isn't fair for losers. Yes, I was floored by the stunning and differing expressions of voters who had aired powerful views against incumbents. There was sheer dissatisfaction. Yet their votes said otherwise! It's an interesting decision that deserves careful review.

Closer scrutiny reveals that behind the mysterious victory are silhouettes that boast five o'clock shadows. In other words, there emerged in our midst new godfathers including godfathers for all other godfathers. Who are these people?

There's the main godfather who delivers the goodies (money) to the second group of godfathers or relatives who have direct access to the powers-that-be. And legislative godfathers who in turn give constituents a portion of their loot. And so there we have the Choir of Godfathers. And each is singing *White Christmas*, what with everything on their palm is colored green!

I don't blame our people for their decision to obey godfathers in slave-like fashion. Nearly everyone is hurting trying to figure out how to provide for the next family meal and other needs. There's hardly any room to figure out the forced conditions they had to endure. They'd bow to anything and everything!

But it's your failure that left them in near total poverty! Do you exploit what you've forced against them? Didn't you promise to improve their quality of life? It's also clear why the parade of godfathers had to be creative in promoting a non-existent economy.

It's to justify improvement to shore-up information for inclusion in a bond application. But the scheme is obvious! How do you refute the work of world renown and highly reputable economic firm shift its assessment of future investment potential in the NMI? Would an orchestrated lie tilt its findings? It has done due diligence!

In other words, if I have lots of money would investing in the NMI be the smart thing to do? What's the future of the casino industry here and would it survive on its own over the next 20 years? Would sinking my money in this venture for that long period of time guarantee return on investment? Under suspect conditions, would it not be best that I invest my money elsewhere? These are queries investors must deal with when it comes to the NMI.

Godfathers would continue sucking off the side of the luscious gravy train passed down to them from the richer godfathers. What's troubling about this scheme?

It doesn't help families over the long-term. The hardship deepens as the Ship of Hope sinks steadily into the Marianas Trench. Sad that those who benefited with about $100 to blow would spend it quickly. What happens when the entire amount is spent? It's back to square one, right? There's nothing else to blow but they've obeyed on Election Day!

Unfortunately, trust in our governmental institutions has consistently gone south. The godfathers collect their loot while their followers yawn for more dough that isn't coming until the next election cycle swings around. In brief, this is the story of the NMI's godfathers who have traded their integrity and conscience in favor of yes, Me, Myself and I! With such shallow or empty mindset ill equipped with vision and integrity, what's in our crystal ball?

What's in our future?

In recent past, a Fortune 500 executive called the CNMI a "welfare state" riddled with "corruption." I was badly wounded by that statement. Unfortunately, it leaves in serious limbo infrastructural needs like water, power, sewer and roads. And these issues remain dangerously suspect today. Is there a plan to address and resolve them in the near-term?

Funds for Capital Improvement Projects hail from Covenant funds under the agreement. It was guaranteed for seven years after its availability is contingent upon additional appropriations from across the Pacific Divide. Is there a chance Congress would continue being blindly generous? How do we explain not taxing BSI's $13.5 billion largess? Do we repeat the usual adolescent expression "Not yet already?" Why chance being a laughingstock in DC?

Is self-government enveloped in irresponsibility and lack of accountability? What has the Office of the Attorney General done to collect the expropriation of some $400,000 in taxpayers' money for the MV *Luta*? Have we factually employed economic efficiency—prudent spending of scarce resources—or has this been acknowledged with the usual inconsequential demeanor in the disposition of hard-earned taxpayers contributions?

How fitting that in the season of giving, the NMI also gives itself time to reassess its future under deepening conditions or else... Or do we intone the usual *que sera, sera*? EVERbody home? Despicably disgusting, isn't it?

Yes, we need tons of money to begin addressing and improving healthcare delivery at CHC. I'm talking the entire nine yards that involves investing in our medical team and facility to lessen medical referral cost. If you understand the current setup then you begin to see why you can't rely on politics as the answer to a consistently inefficient healthcare system. In fact, there's no one left to blame but people at the helm who fail to think outside the box. Eh, did you get that pal?

Then politicians mouth off about the education of our children. Yet, the latest issue they're pursuing is more money for their pockets! Did it ever occur to you that the quality of your performance merits your skipping the issue immediately? I mean what have you factually done to improve family income substantially Marianas-wide?

Definitely, sentiment against it is exacerbated by your failure to emplace lasting economic growth that lifts ALL boats! Eh, I like for *da kine* for floating and paddling my canoe on water not in the sand downstairs, get that pal? We people too, right? Why you no good rookin'? You walk like the blind bull I sold my neighbor!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Never mind my critic

Francisco R. Agulto wants readers to believe he is some kind of expert on collective bargaining within the CNMI. His half-truths are "whole lies." His claim that collective bargaining does not exist within PSS is true but he didn't get it that I was complaining about that very fact being true. But his assertion that the National Labor Relations Act does not extend to the CNMI is ludicrous; the law has just never been challenged. Wage and immigration control was not part of the deal either for the CNMI but as soon as local sovereignty laws proved to be "unfair and challenged" look what happened! 2. I can't find a CNMI law for collective bargaining because of a legislative initiative to remove "collective bargaining" from the CNMI Constitution that the people approved due to the lack of education on the initiative; many people voted for it thinking they were helping the education system, not knowing they were literally killing the only "day-to-day" check by teachers on our education system. That is why collective bargaining is not in our laws anymore. 3. Just because a law doesn't exist doesn't mean it won't exist because if teachers do organize they can actually force PSS, BOE and our leaders to grant them their right to collective bargaining; that is a matter of federal law! Evidently Francisco R. Agulto doesn't understand how our federal system works and the power of federal rights over local rights because we do not live under a CNMI system as he seems to think. When will people like him get it that whenever we go fooling around with and challenging the right to "abuse" the basic laws and principles of America the CNMI will lose every time.

FYI, Francisco R. Agulto, you have also failed at being a good listener because I have been yelling and setting the conditions for the "perfect storm" ever since I first tried to get teachers their right to collective bargaining. You need to know that the CNMI Constitution was changed because of me and my efforts alone so I'm not just a tempest in a teapot, like you want people to think. Our teachers still have the worst contracts and working conditions in America. But I guess Agulto doesn't care about our teachers as he was only interested in keeping them from gaining their constitutional collective bargaining rights. He didn't learn a single thing from the wages and immigration battles the CNMI lost! In fact and I hate to say it, but most CNMI citizens have far more faith in our federal government than our local CNMI government!

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

TRUMP

From Page 10

picture."

That's true. Too much work and time have gone into laying the groundwork for normalization of relations to turn back now.

Trump must balance competing interests, but the U.S. for too long has subverted its interests for the sake of Cuban expats who wanted to hurt the Castro regime. With the dictator's death, that time has passed.

(c)2016 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

I donut niid edukashun; I hab kommon cents

Editor's Note: The following is being published as a series due to its length.

"...I have common sense"**:** The first half of this sentence has often been "I don't need education;..." This is interesting to me. It is interesting to me because the breadth and depth of our common sense is in direct proportion to the amount of information we know. It works like this: Information is the foundation for other things. It is not "power" as some have said for if it were, if information were power, then the world would be ruled by librarians (those with access to so much information). Building on information is the world of understanding. The best working definition I've come across is *"The ability to see into the true nature of things, people, and situations."* But it is the third, wisdom, that makes a difference in our lives and in our world. *Wisdom is the correct, the right application of information and understanding.* A bank employee learning of a depositor's bank balance and understanding how their friend can make use of it and tells that friend isn't exercising wisdom—it's a breach of confidentiality, bank policy, and the law.

The method we've devised to accelerate the gaining of knowledge (and, to some degree, understanding) is education. That's right! Education is the accelerated path to knowledge. Without it, our so-called common sense is extremely limited. In fact, in Guam, that common sense is often referred to as "kommon sense" (toilet sense).

For years, real farmers were considered to be the profession of common sense. Now, they too realize that, to stay alive, they and their kids need to beef up their education. Fields are no longer leveled by "eyeball and landmarks" but by lasers and GPS coordinates. The soil was "good" if it felt, smelled, and (for some) tasted good. Now, an analysis is needed at the micro-component level and those areas of the field lacking micronutrients have them dispersed by a computer-controlled machine exactly where it's needed. And what is the difference of doing this or not? Loss or profit.

Now, in agriculture, one seed is planted at a time by computer with a puff of air placing it at a specified depth in the soil for optimum growth and without seed loss. Before, seed was dropped by gravity, covered in a separate process, then later the farmer would thin the row realizing that he had wasted a lot of seed and extra time covering and thinning.

To be continued

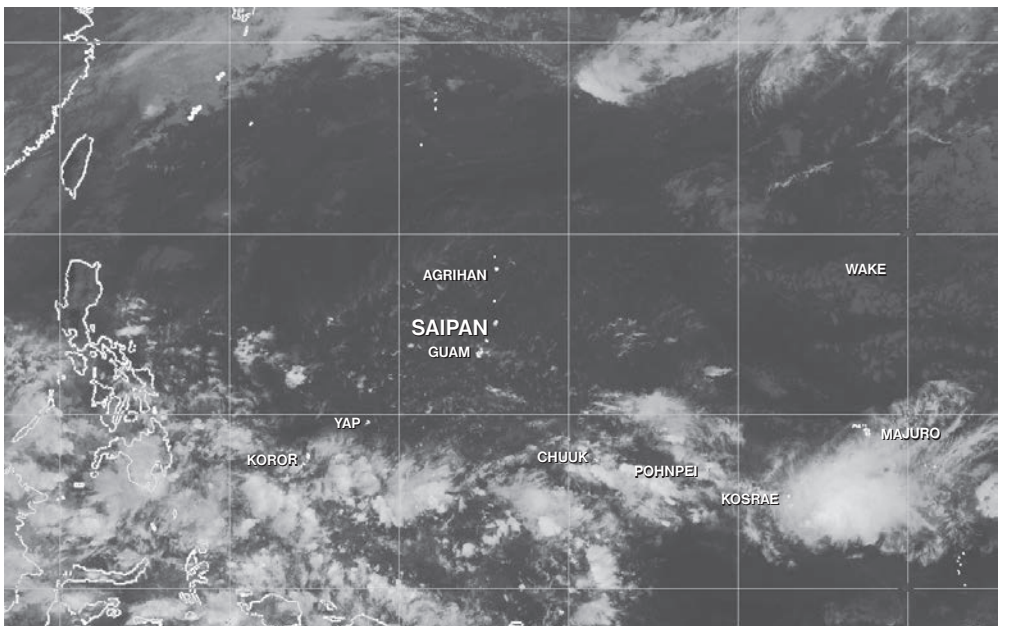
Arnold J. Mesa
Chinatown

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and breezy. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Nixed scattered showers in today's forecast. Satellite and radar imagery did show a few showers over the local area, but not enough coverage to be considered scattered. Trimmed scattered showers from today's forecast. Models do show showers over the local area tonight and Monday, however 700 mb relative humidity seems to hint that isolated showers will be the predominant coverage. Breezy east winds of 15 to 25 mph will prevail across the Marianas through Monday. Winds will decrease slightly to 15 to 20 Monday night and Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

High level clouds		
Guam and Rota	Afternoon clouds	83 / 89 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 85 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	78 / 84 °F
Kosrae	Heavy rain	80 / 83 °F
Majuro	Strong thunderstorms	84 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Partly sunny	56 / 71 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	22 / 37 °F
Hong Kong	Afternoon clouds	66 / 79 °F
Honolulu	Showers	68 / 76 °F
London	Morning clouds	33 / 46 °F
Los Angeles	High level clouds	48 / 65 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	80 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Showers	59 / 77 °F
Miami	Cloudy	75 / 80 °F
New York	Light snow	38 / 47 °F
Osaka	Showers	51 / 61 °F
Paris	Scattered clouds	32 / 48 °F
Pusan	Sunny	43 / 61 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	37 / 56 °F
Salem	Light rain	36 / 41 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	49 / 56 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	31 / 50 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	47 / 60 °F
Washington, DC	Light rain	40 / 53 °F

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
5:05 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.08 Feet
12:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88 Feet
6:20 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15 Feet
10:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	10:45 AM	10:37 PM
Tuesday	11:30 AM	11:30 PM
Wednesday	12:14 AM	-
Thursday	12:59 PM	12:23 AM
Friday	1:45 PM	1:18 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Show legislator possibilities for those with disabilities

The VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter, in collaboration with the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, is excited to invite individuals with disabilities who are employed to participate in "Take Your Legislator to Work" campaign CNMI-wide. We are seeking individuals and organizations to help us promote the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

"Take Your Legislator to Work" is an event in which individuals with disabilities who are employed in the community invite a legislator to their workplace. The goal is to build awareness about the capabilities of people with disabilities and the valuable resource they are to their employers and community.

If an individual chooses to participate, the first step is to get the support of their employer to have a legislative visit. They would need to identify legislators in their area to invite to the event. The invitation should be sent by the employee to their legislator once they get approval from their employer. The intent is to have these visits occur from October to December 2016 as a part of National Employment Disability Awareness and to be covered by the media: newspapers, television, etc.

The VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter is committed to this event and hopes you will join us in celebrating the success of employees with disabilities and the employment potential of all individuals with disabilities. Call Monika H. Diaz @ 783-0591 or email: monikahdiaz@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

EOC warns of high surf today

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through today, Monday. a trade-wind disturbance is expected to bring scattered showers to the region today.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 3pm today, Monday. Surf will remain hazardous at 7 to 9 feet along north and 10 to 12 feet along east facing reefs through Monday. Surf should fall below hazardous levels by late this Monday afternoon.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 3pm today, Monday. Fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Monday.

The EOC is advising the public and inexperienced mariners to avoid swimming or venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially those facing north and east. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(EOC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VA benefits outreach

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach on Dec. 9, 2016, from 9am to 3pm at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Chris Duenas, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims. Points of contact are Ruth Coleman, 322-0035; Chris Duenas, 1-671-648-0090. ***(VA)***

Notice to all 2016 candidates, political parties

The staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota today, Dec. 5, 2016, and on Tinian on Dec. 7, 2016, to notarize and accept filings of campaign statement of account forms for the 2016 election candidates and political parties.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 3pm today, Dec. 5, 2016. Filers on Tinian may visit the Department of Commerce from 9am to 4pm on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. Proper identification with both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided.

For any inquiries, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(PR)***

Chamber to host career exploration day

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its "2016 Career Exploration Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. High school juniors and seniors will choose a field of business they are interested in and will be paired with a participating chamber business. Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the Chamber's membership meeting on Dec. 7 at 12pm. For more information, call the chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 year-end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CASEWORKER I
Announcement # JVA17-007

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible for drug court assessments, case management with drug court participants and provides ongoing support to the Drug Court operation/functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct intake, assessment, establish case plan for referred participants;
- Conducts program/phase orientation and inform participants of legal requirements and implications concerning treatment;
- Tracks drug tests, group attendance, individual counseling attendance, outside groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Course) and other services;
- Provides case management;
- Coordinates/conducts individual, family and group therapeutic/educational/substance abuse treatment sessions/and crisis intervention;
- Conducts discharge planning and provides referrals for continuing treatment;
- Provides follow-up contact as needed;
- Communicates with Compliance Specialist and other Drug Court staff to secure resources for participants;
- Maintains files, records legal and case documentation in accordance with established regulatory policies and procedure;
- Attends staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;
- Attends Drug Court sessions as needed; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or closely related field. Have three (3) years experience as a counselor in substance abuse treatment programs. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $35,000 - $40,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to a decrease in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 4.91%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has decreased from $0.15063 per kWh to $0.14323 per kWh effective December 1, 2016.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate) Per kWh -- all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 12/01/16)	$ 0.14323	$ 0.14323	$ 0.14323	$ 0.14323
Previous FAC (11/01/16 - 11/30/16)	$ 0.15063	$ 0.15063	$ 0.15063	$ 0.15063

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Updated December 2016

MHS reports success in release of progress reports

Marianas High School extends its gratitude to its Mighty Dolphin parents who came out in full force to support the school's second quarter mid-progress report on Dec. 1, 2016. The school saw an outstanding turnout of nearly 1,000 parents.

The quarterly mid-progress report is a great opportunity for stakeholders to engage with teachers concerning the performance of their child. Parents and educators to work together celebrate success and provide support.

The event also featured the AP World History students, taught by Dr. Chas Algair, who showcased the Tang and Song Dynasties.

The home of the Mighty Dolphins looks forward to even greater parental engagement and highly encourages its parents to continue their outstanding participation.

In related news, Marianas High School released its students at 9:30am last Friday due to water system breakdown on campus. The Capitol Improvement Projects and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. worked to resolve this issue.

All MHS campus activities, including after school classes and practices for Friday, were cancelled. Lunch service was also cancelled. Basketball games scheduled at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium were held as scheduled. Buses transported students at 9:30am. ***(PR)***

Nearly 1,000 parents turned out for the Marianas High School's second quarter mid-progress report on Dec. 1, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School's second quarter mid-progress report on Dec. 1, 2016, also featured the AP World History students, taught by Dr. Chas Algair, who showcased the Tang and Song Dynasties.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agreement boosts disease response in Pacific Islands

SUVA, Fiji—Modules in disease outbreak investigation and public health surveillance, and a field epidemiology project, are part of a redeveloped postgraduate qualification program that will strengthen public health capacity in the Pacific Islands region.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Fiji National University have signed an agreement for the further development, implementation and accreditation of the region's Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology, also known as the Pacific Data for Decision Making Training course.

"We're very pleased with this new agreement with FNU that will help in building sustainable human resources for public health data analysis, surveillance and epidemiology in the Pacific," said SPC Director of Public Health Dr. Paula Vivili. "The fact the training will now be accredited by a recognized institution provides a way of recognizing skills and knowledge in the long term for the students."

Alongside many partners of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, both institutions, SPC and FNU, play a key ongoing role in the management of this training program, which calls on real scenarios from national health systems.

The Data for Decision Making training was revitalized in 2013 in response to a call for action in strengthening capacity in epidemiology by health ministries of the region.

This accredited training program has been developed by several partners of the PPHSN: the Fiji National University, Hunter New England Local Health District in Australia, the Pacific Community, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, the University of Guam, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

"FNU is grateful to SPC and indeed the PPHSN partners for the work that is implemented in the region, meeting a very vital health information management need via the Data for Decision Making program," said Dr. Donald Wilson, FNU head of School Public Health and Primary Care. "Our team at FNU has been fortunate to have the opportunity over the past year, to engage all parties in discussions to amend and, in the process, strengthen the content and structure of this program, aligning it to FNU requirements and taking it through the various academic processes of the university until the amended program was finally approved at the FNU Senate in September."

"We are now ironing out other necessary paperwork to ensure that eight students that have completed the newly-accredited curriculum are able to graduate this December," he added.

To be eligible for graduation, students must complete five modules on public health surveillance, disease outbreak investigations, introduction of epidemiology and field epidemiology, computing for public health practice and a field epidemiology project.

Since August 2013, over 220 health workers around the region have commenced the program. ***(SPC)***

Naval Base Guam to conduct tsunami exercise

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will be conducting its annual tsunami exercise tomorrow, Dec. 6, starting at approximately 9am.

The four-hour tsunami exercise gives NBG headquarters, emergency management operations and its tenant commands a chance to exercise command and control capabilities in response to a natural disaster. The NBG Giant Voice mass notification system will be used in conjunction with this exercise, as well as temporary closures of beaches to help simulate what security and support teams would be doing in event of a pending tsunami to hit Guam. Residents and nearby communities may hear sounds and voices coming from the Giant Voice, but they are only related to the exercise.

The purpose of the exercise is to prepare for the real thing—with an organized, time-phased evacuation, timely accountability procedures and damage assessments with the purpose of saving lives. ***(PR)***

UOG hosts loan closing ceremony for 2 projects

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam Endowment Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be signing documents in a loan closing ceremony today, Dec. 5, in the Student Services Center rotunda on the University of Guam campus to close a $21.7 million loan, which will be used to build the university's newest buildings: a 70,000 sq. ft. Student Services Center and a two-level 16,000 sq. ft. School of Engineering Building.

According to university president Dr. Robert Underwood, these buildings will considerably improve campus facilities.

"Both buildings meet the growing needs of our students and the community," said Underwood. "The new Student Services Center will provide students with more efficient access to services and will improve their experience at UOG."

Underwood added, "The School of Engineering is a game changer for the island. It will not only help meet the increasing demand for local engineering expertise, but it will help keep some of our brightest and highest-performing students here in Guam and contributing to our island's growth."

UOGEF executive director Janiece Sablan says through this project, the foundation is fulfilling its mission to support UOG and its students.

"The new Student Services Center will truly enhance the student experience," said Sablan. "It will feature a new, multi-level Triton Store, food court, a one-stop office for all student services, a student resource center, and a beautiful view of Pago Bay."

Sablan anticipates construction to begin in early 2017.

The last major construction to take place on the UOG campus was in 2006, when the Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero Business and Public Administration Building was completed. The new buildings are a part of the university's Vision 2025 Physical Master Plan to build the 21st Century Campus.

The University of Guam Endowment Foundation Inc. is a 501c3 non profit that was founded on the vision that through community support and involvement, the University of Guam will provide local and regional students with the best education and tools to excel in a global economy.

For more information about the Foundation and the UOG Vision 2025 Physical Master Plan, visit www.supportuog.org. ***(UOG)***

BankGuam Holding declares Q4 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its regular meeting held on Monday, Nov. 28, 2016. The dividends will be paid on Dec. 30, 2016, to shareholders of record as of Dec. 15, 2016.

BankGuamHolding company president and chair of the board, Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we have met our financial performance for this quarter, thus allowing us to once again provide a return on our shareholder's investment." ***(PR)***

Business

Honolulu Cookie Company is excited to enter Guam

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Honolulu Cookie Company has opened its newest location in Micronesia Mall on Nov. 25. The cookie retailer is eager to introduce their premium shortbread treats to the local and international customers of its first store on Guam.

Micronesia Mall

As Guam's premiere retail center for both local and international shoppers, Honolulu Cookie Company recognizes Micronesia Mall as a wonderful location with an exciting future for establishing their global gift brand in the market. Honolulu Cookie Company is proud to join this center as it continues to grow and reach out to both established and new customers.

» Look for Honolulu Cookie Company's newest location in Micronesia Mall.

Unique to Guam

Visitors to the new Micronesia Mall store will have access to a product available exclusively at the Guam location. The Guam Medium Gift Box features 16 cookies with the signature pineapple shape in eight popular flavors. This is a chocolate brown box, accented with a pearl green sleeve featuring a beautiful floral design and an image of Guam. Additionally, a select variety of Honolulu Cookie Company products will be available in-store.

Reaching out

Honolulu Cookie Company named Brian Thomasson as the manager of this newest store. "I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be living here and being a part of establishing the first Honolulu Cookie Company retail store in Guam at the Micronesia Mall," said Thomasson, "and am grateful for the HafaAdai spirit accepting us into the community." Thomasson will be leading a team of seven full-time, recently hired local employees. Guests will be welcomed daily from 10am to 9pm and can reach the store via phone at 671-300-9029. The staff will continue Honolulu Cookie Company's tradition of bringing the Spirit of Aloha to each visitor's experience with their sterling customer service. Of course, this includes offering a wide selection of free samples so guests can discover which of the premium shortbread cookie flavors is their favorite. With more visitors from around the Pacific Rim visiting to enjoy the beauty of Guam, Honolulu Cookie Company looks forward to greeting each one with a warm "Aloha."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Honolulu Cookie Company Guam storefront.

To contact

Please visit www.honolulucookie.com or call toll free at (866) 333-5800. Also available is the full range of the company's products, available for shipping across the U.S. mainland and to select international locations. You can also find Honolulu Cookie Company on Facebook at:www.facebook.com/honolulucookie

About

Since 1998, Honolulu Cookie Company's premium shortbread cookies have been made using Hawaii's freshest and finest ingredients. Baked fresh daily in Honolulu, each cookie is handcrafted and individually wrapped to ensure freshness. Honolulu Cookie Company has 14 locations in Hawaii (11 on Oahu, three on Maui), two in Las Vegas, and one in Guam.

On Oahu, Honolulu Cookie Company has eight retail stores in Waikiki, including a new location at International Market Place. Other locations include Ward Warehouse, the Makai Market Food Court at Ala Moana Center, and the Sand Island Store. On Maui, Honolulu Cookie Company has stores at Whalers Village and Front Street in Lahaina, and at The Shops at Wailea. Honolulu Cookie Company can also be found at Micronesia Mall in Guam as well as the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian, The Palazzo, and coming this winter to The LINQ Promenade in Las Vegas.

Additionally, Honolulu Cookie Company cookies are available at select retail partners: Neiman Marcus, Tommy Bahama, Bloomingdale's and DFS stores. Visithonolulucookie.com/store-locations to find a store near you. ***(PR)***

For now, Trump bears signs of a dealmaker, not a policymaker

WASHINGTON (AP)—He phones. He kibitzes. He cajoles. He threatens. He rewards.

It's a freewheeling style that President-elect Donald Trump used to stop Carrier from shipping 800 jobs from an Indiana factory to Mexico. And it marks a radical shift from the measured words and scripted events that typify most presidents-elect.

It's the agenda of a dealmaker, one who seems inclined to take a transactional, ad hoc approach to economic policy—offering some help to this company, perhaps directing a warning to others.

Thursday's announcement by Carrier that it had reversed its decision to move certain jobs outside the country spotlighted Trump's inclination to personally intervene in the economy, down to a company's assembly line.

His public relations victory ran counter to the conservative economic principle that the government should seldom, if ever, intercede to choose corporate winners and losers. It also raised expectations for whatever economic gains he can deliver to his supporters across the country, many of whom have suffered financial setbacks as America's manufacturing base has shrunk.

Yet few analysts think Trump can repeatedly inject the presidency into individual corporate affairs.

"It's a great tactical success," Bill Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said of the Carrier announcement. "But is it a strategic template? Of course not."

Trump said the decision to preserve Carrier's factory jobs occurred after he had phoned the CEO of its parent company, United Technologies.

Such interventions are rare. As president in 1981, President Ronald Reagan famously waded into a labor dispute by firing more than 11,000 air traffic controllers on strike. But they were federal workers, and Reagan argued that the workers had broken the law by striking.

Reimagined United Polaris International Business Class launched

CHICAGO—Last week United Airlines began the roll out of its all-new United Polaris business class, the airline's most significant product transformation in more than a decade, featuring a reimagined, sleep-enhancing experience for intercontinental travelers. United Polaris began service at 12:01am local time on Dec. 1 in all of the airline's markets.

Announced in June, the first phase of United Polaris features an elevated inflight food and beverage experience, tranquil custom bedding from Saks Fifth Avenue, exclusive amenity kits with products from Soho House & Co's Cowshed Spa, and the opening of the first of nine United Polaris lounges around the world, at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

"In our quest to be the best airline in the world, we are rethinking and reimagining all we do. United Polaris offers an elevated customer experience and redefines the meaning of premier business travel," said Oscar Munoz, CEO of United. "The high quality of amenities United Polaris provides is matched only by the service and care our employees demonstrate from lounge to landing."

Sleep-enticing amenities

In rethinking the international business class experience, United conducted more than 12,000 hours of research, and sleep emerged as the single most important priority for international business class travelers. United Polaris' path-breaking design and sleep-enhancing focus was inspired and informed by insights from hundreds of customers and employees, inflight product simulations and more than 100 product evaluations.

"With United Polaris, we set out to put the legacy of the weary business traveler to bed for good," said Julia Haywood, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer of United. "What we heard from our customers, and what resonated as a very consistent theme, was that they needed a tailored experience that would maximize comfort and sleep. Arriving at your destination well rested is something we all strive for when we travel, and for our customers traveling halfway around the world, optimal performance when they arrive at their destination is the only option."

In a first-of-its-kind relationship, United has worked with leading luxury specialty store Saks Fifth Avenue for custom-designed bedding. All designed to provide the best sleep in the sky, the new bedding collection will feature plush duvets, lightweight day-blankets and a large and small pillow for each United Polaris customer. In addition, mattress cushions will be available upon request.

Slippers will be available on all flights, and customized United Polaris pajamas will be available by request on flights longer than 12 hours. Flyers will also be able to request a gel-cooled pillow. New amenity kits will feature ergonomically designed eye shades, calming pillow mist and additional products from Soho House & Co's Cowshed Spa.

With the introduction of United Polaris, the airline intends to donate tens of thousands of pillows, blankets and other inflight service items to Fisher House Foundation, which United and its employees have long supported.

Additionally, United will offer a new and unique channel for customers on its inflight entertainment system focused on sleep and relaxation. Customers will be able to relax with soothing nature scenes, guided meditation sessions from Headspace, and experience Slow TV as they settle-in onboard.

Elevated dining experience

Upon boarding their flight, each United Polaris customer will be welcomed with a pre-departure beverage of his or her choice and gourmet chocolate. On morning flights, passengers can choose a sweet and bubbly Mimosa or create their own savory and spicy Tito's Handmade Vodka® Bloody Mary. On afternoon and evening flights, passengers can create their own wine tasting menu, with a customized wine flight with the highest-quality options curated exclusively by United's Master Sommelier. While in the air, customers will enjoy regionally influenced inflight menus updated seasonally, developed in partnership with The Trotter Project and its critically recognized chefs, including Chef Bill Kim of Chicago restaurants Urbanbelly, bellyQ and Belly Shack and Chef Jesse Dunford Wood, chef-owner at Parlour in London.

Inflight service will also include made-to-order signature ice cream sundaes and a dessert cart with a variety of petit dessert options. On daytime flights longer than eight hours and on all flights longer than 12 hours, hot mid-flight snacks such as lobster macaroni and cheese will be available.

More information on the United Polaris business class can be found at united.com/Polaris. Photos and video can be found at newsroom.united.com/United_Polaris. ***(United)***

Nation

Fire tears through Oakland dance party, killing at least 9

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters struggled to get to bodies in the rubble Saturday after a fire tore through a converted Oakland warehouse during a late-night electronic music party, killing at least 9 people and making the charred structure unsafe for emergency crews to enter. Officials said at least two dozen more were missing in the rubble of the building.

Officials described the scene inside the warehouse, which had been illegally converted into artist studios, as a death trap that made it impossible for many partygoers to escape the Friday night fire. And a day later, the maze of debris and devastation was complicating efforts to extract the bodies.

"It was just a labyrinth of little areas. We knew people were in there, and we were trying to get them out. But it was just a labyrinth," Oakland deputy fire chief Mark Hoffmann told reporters Saturday afternoon.

He said that firefighters had to stop their search and rescue operation Saturday afternoon for safety reasons and shore up the structure, but they expected to resume later in the day. The building's roof had collapsed into the second floor, which in places fell to the bottom floor.

AP

This photo taken from video provided by @Oaklandfirelive shows the scene of a fire in Oakland, early Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016.

Oakland officials said they had opened an investigation just last month into the warehouse after numerous complaints filed by neighbors who said trash was piling up outside the property and people were illegally living in the building, which was zoned as a warehouse.

Darin Ranelletti, of the Oakland Planning Department, said the city opened an investigation Nov. 13 and an investigator went to the premises on Nov. 17 but could not get inside the building. The city has not confirmed people were living inside.

One survivor, however, said that 18 artists lived inside the warehouse.

Bob Mule said he was one of the artists living in the collective space. He told KGO-TV that he and another person smelled smoke and spotted the fire in a back corner and started yelling.

"The fire went up really, really, really quickly," he said.

Mule said he tried to help someone who had an injured ankle but couldn't. "There was a lot of stuff in the way, the flames were too much," Mule said, trailing off. "I hope, I hope he's OK."

Online records listed the building's owner as Nar Siu Chor. The Associated Press could not locate a telephone number for her Saturday and efforts to reach her at other Oakland addresses associated with her were not successful.

The warehouse was known as the "Oakland Ghost Ship." Its website showed pictures of a bohemian, loft-like interior made of wood and cluttered with rugs, old sofas and a garage-sale like collection of pianos, paintings, turntables, statues and other items.

The website included advertisements for various electronic music parties. Friday night's event featured musician Golden Donna's 100% Silk West Coast tour. A message on the group's website said "Joel is safe but like many people he is heartbroken."

It's unclear what sparked the fire. But officials said the clutter served as a tinderbox and there were no sprinklers inside.

"Something as simple as a cigarette could have started this," Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said, adding that people either escaped from the building or died inside, where the only way down from the second story was via a stairwell constructed entirely of wooden pallets. "It appears that either you got out or you got trapped inside."

By nightfall Saturday, rescue crews had recovered nine bodies from the building and said about two dozen were still unaccounted for. None of the nine dead have been identified.

About 50 to 100 people were believed to have been at the party when the fire started around 11:30 p.m. Friday, officials said.

Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed said at least 25 people were unaccounted for. The victims were believed to be people in their 20s, Kelly said. He said as many as 40 may have perished and that the coroner is preparing for a "mass casualty event" that could include victims from other countries.

Searchers brought in cranes and heavy equipment to search through the night.

"We know there are bodies in there that we can't get to—that have been seen but not recovered," Kelly said. "There's bodies that are trapped in there, that need to be cut from the wreckage."

Monica Kat, a paralegal, feared four of her friends perished in the fire.

"I texted one of my friends immediately and you know, people were checking in on Facebook, we were all checking in looking for them and they're still not accounted for and I can only think the worst at this point," she said.

Panicked friends and family posted messages on the group's Facebook page trying to find out if their loved ones were among the dead. Those searching for the missing were sent to a local sheriff's office, where Dan Vega was anxiously awaiting news. He had been unable to find his younger brother or his brother's girlfriend.

Trump shrugs off fuss over Taiwan call

BEIJING (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump is unapologetic about roiling diplomatic waters with his decision to speak on the phone with Taiwan's leader, a breach of long-standing tradition that risks enmity from China.

The U.S. severed diplomatic ties with the self-governing island in 1979 but has maintained close unofficial relations and a commitment to support its defense.

Trump's conversation with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen drew an irritated, although understated, response from China, as Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that the contact was "just a small trick by Taiwan" that he believed would not change U.S. policy toward China, according to Hong Kong's Phoenix TV.

"The one-China policy is the cornerstone of the healthy development of China-U.S. relations and we hope this political foundation will not be interfered with or damaged," Wang was quoted as saying. Chinese officials said they lodged a complaint with the U.S. and reiterated a commitment to seeking "reunification" with the island, which they consider a renegade province.

After the phone conversation Friday, Trump tweeted that Tsai "CALLED ME." He also groused about the reaction to the call: "Interesting how the U.S. sells Taiwan billions of dollars of military equipment but I should not accept a congratulatory call."

The U.S. shifted diplomatic recognition to China from Taiwan in 1979. But the governments in Washington and Taipei have maintained close unofficial ties and deep economic and defense relations. The U.S. is required by law to provide Taiwan with weapons to maintain its defense.

Since 2009, the Obama administration has approved $14 billion in arms sales to Taiwan.

The call was the starkest example yet of how Trump has flouted diplomatic conventions since he won the Nov. 8 election. He has apparently undertaken calls with foreign leaders without guidance customarily given by the State Department, which oversees U.S. diplomacy.

"President-elect Trump is just shooting from the hip, trying to take phone calls of congratulatory messages from leaders around the world without consideration for the implications," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Campus attack could be latest terror case in heartland state

CINCINNATI (AP)—Authorities are investigating terrorism as a possible motive in the car-and-knife attack on the Ohio State University campus, the latest in a series of cases involving young men who apparently became radicalized in the heartland state.

They are still piecing together information on the activities of Abdul Razak Ali Artan, the Ohio State student killed Nov. 28 by a police officer after he ran his car into others and began slashing with a butcher knife. Among other recent cases that left people close to the suspects stunned, one man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison, another will be sentenced Monday and another was arrested last month.

Their cases have similarities, but also differences, underscoring the challenges to understanding what causes someone to embrace Islamic State calls to violence and how to spot homegrown terrorists.

"The fact is, anybody can be a terrorist," said James Forest, director of the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

The professor said research has shown a broad spectrum for how long it takes someone to become radicalized. Someone living a seemingly normal life can be "derailed" in a matter of days or weeks.

Citing Artan, whose act apparently had little foreshadowing, Forest said: "How could you identify this person on the street as a potential threat?"

Christopher Lee Cornell, 22, faces sentencing Monday for a plot to assault the U.S. Capitol in support of the Islamic State group. Munir Abdulkader, 22, of the Cincinnati suburb of West Chester Township, was sentenced Nov. 23 to 20 years for an IS-involved plot to kill a military veteran and attack a police station.

In Columbus, Aaron T. Daniels, 20, was arrested in early November at the airport on his way, authorities said, to fly to Libya to fight for the Islamic State.

ACROSS THE NATION

Students: Slain USC prof was caring; arrested student quiet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A graduate student arrested on suspicion of stabbing to death the professor who oversaw his work at the University of Southern California was quiet and didn't seem to have many friends but never showed any signs that something may have been wrong, several people who knew him at the university said Saturday. David Jonathan Brown, a 28-year-old brain and cognitive science student, was arrested on a murder charge in the Friday attack on the Los Angeles campus. His mentor, Bosco Tjan, was killed inside the Seeley G. Mudd building, where he runs an intensive lab that studies vision loss. Brown, one of just five students who worked in the lab, was arrested without incident, police said, adding that the killing was targeted. It wasn't clear if Brown, who's being held on a $1 million bond, had obtained an attorney.

Emergency officials: We won't let pipeline protesters freeze

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—The head of North Dakota's emergency management services says the state is prepared to respond to Dakota Access pipeline protesters who may need help during a winter storm or some other crisis. State Homeland Security Director Greg Wilz said it would be a "huge challenge," especially during a mass evacuation, but his office has winter shelter plans in place and various agencies are ready to respond. "The bottom line here is, if we are in a situation of life and limb, we are going to be humane in anything and everything we do," Wilz said. "We aren't going to let somebody out there freeze. So if they start evacuating en masse looking for shelter—which I highly suspect will happen—we would take care of that."

Asia

Duterte says Trump wished his drug crackdown 'success'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte said Saturday Donald Trump wished his deadly crackdown on illegal drugs would succeed during a telephone call, and he assured the U.S. president-elect the Philippines would maintain its ties with America—a departure from Duterte's hostility toward the Obama administration.

Duterte called to congratulate Trump late Friday in their first talk that was described by an aide of the Philippine president as "very engaging, animated conversation" in which both leaders invited each other to visit his country.

In a video released by Duterte's close aide, Bong Go, the Philippine leader is seen smiling while talking to Trump and saying: "We will maintain ... and enhance the bilateral ties between our two countries."

The other parts of the conversation were not aired in the video but in a statement released by his aides, Duterte said "he was wishing me success in my campaign against the drug problem."

"He understood the way we are handling it and I said that there's nothing wrong in protecting a country," Duterte said. "It was a bit very encouraging in the sense that I supposed that what he really wanted to say was that we would be the last to interfere in the affairs of your own country."

"He said that ... well, we are doing it as a sovereign nation, the right way," Duterte said in his statement. It was unclear whether he or Trump remarked that the widely criticized crackdown was being carried out properly.

Duterte has lashed out at President Barack Obama, the State Department, EU and U.N. officials and human rights groups for raising concerns over the crackdown, which has left more than 4,000 suspected drug dealers and user dead, including many who are feared to have been gunned down in gangland-style killings.

AP
In this Oct. 26, 2016, file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a speech at the Philippine Economic Forum in Tokyo.

While being antagonistic to the U.S., his country's treaty ally, Duterte has reached out to China and Russia.

Obama canceled what could have been their first formal meeting in an Asian summit in Laos in September after Duterte unleashed an expletive-laden warning for the U.S. leader not to lecture him on human rights. In one speech, Duterte asked Obama to "go to hell."

Duterte has repeatedly threatened to scale back the presence of visiting U.S. troops and joint combat exercises with the Americans, but he and his defense officials have walked back on most of those threats. In one speech while visiting Beijing, Duterte announced he would separate from the U.S. but later clarified that he meant he would chart a foreign policy that does not lean toward America.

During their talk, Trump invited Duterte to visit the White House next year and Duterte asked the incoming U.S. leader to attend an East Asian summit to be hosted by the Philippines next year, according to Go.

"He said that he will try his best to be here. He wants to attend the summit and that would be great for our country," Duterte said.

Malaysian PM leads protest against 'genocide' of Rohingya

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak led a protest rally Sunday against what he called a "genocide" of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority, as he urged Asian neighbors and the world to step up the pressure to stop the violence.

Najib said the rally at a stadium in suburban Kuala Lumpur will send a strong message to Aung San Suu Kyi's government that "enough is enough."

"U.N. please do something. The world cannot sit by and watch genocide taking place," Najib said to loud cheers from thousands of Muslims, including Rohingya refugees. "The world cannot say it is not our problem. It is our problem," he said.

The plight of Rohingya in predominantly-Buddhist Myanmar has galvanized Muslims in Southeast Asia and beyond. Denied citizenship although they have lived in Myanmar for generations, Rohingya have faced persecution that exploded in intercommunal violence in Rakhine state in 2012 that left hundreds dead and forced more than 100,000 into squalid camps.

The violence has again flared up as Myanmar's military launched attacks on Rohingya villages following deadly strikes by unknown assailants on police posts along the border with Bangladesh in October.

The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, Daniel Russel, said that the escalation of violence risks inciting jihadi extremism in Myanmar and Bangladesh and called on neighboring countries, including Malaysia and Indonesia, to resist the urge to stage protests that could further stir religious passions.

Najib said the persecution of the Rohingya is an insult on Islam. He said he had asked Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to stage a similar rally in Jakarta to put the pressure on Myanmar, because he said the charter of the 10-member Association of Southeast Nations, to which all three countries belong, ensures the protection of human rights.

The Malaysian government-led protest marks a departure from the long-standing policy of non-interference by ASEAN members in each other's affairs.

"I will not close my eyes and shut my mouth. We must defend them (Rohingya) not just because they are of the same faith but they are humans, their lives have values," Najib said.

Some critics accuse Najib, who is grappling with a financial scandal, of using the rally to win the support of his country's Muslim Malays ahead of general elections due in 2018, which may be called earlier.

S. Koreans rally for 6th weekend calling for leader's ouster

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Rallying for the sixth straight weekend in what has become perhaps South Korea's biggest protest movement ever, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in Seoul got the closest yet Saturday to the president they desperately want removed.

The demonstration came hours after lawmakers formally launched an attempt to impeach President Park Geunhye and set up a floor vote for as early as next Friday. State prosecutors accuse Park of helping a close confidante extort money and favors from large companies and manipulate state affairs.

The scandal has sparked mass protests each Saturday in downtown Seoul. In the latest demonstration, the protesters advanced to a narrow alley about 100 meters (yards) away from the presidential palace grounds, an area police didn't previously permit them to enter.

Police estimated the turnout at 320,000, making it the biggest anti-Park rally so far, though the crowd appeared to be much larger. Protest organizers estimated the crowd at 1.7 million.

Some of the demonstrators, led by the relatives of a 2014 ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people, mostly teenagers on a school trip, jammed the alley near the presidential office, shouting for hours to demand Park's arrest, not just her resignation.

Some protesters angrily threw flowers at police who had created tight perimeters around the street, and demanded that the officers get out of the way.

"We not once were allowed on this street ... I have long dreamed of the day I stand here with citizens," said Jeon Myeon-seon, one of the parents of the teenagers who died in the ferry disaster, which was partially blamed on government incompetence and corruption. "We will continue to join this fight with our fellow citizens until the full truth is out on how this government defrauded its people."

Thousands also rallied near the National Assembly to pressure political parties, including Park's conservative ruling party, to vote for her impeachment next week.

Opposition parties controlling South Korea's parliament had earlier planned to call for a vote this past week, but were thrown off after Park made a conditional offer Tuesday to leave office, which left them squabbling over timing.

Park's overture has also caused cracks among dissenters in her conservative ruling party who had earlier backed her impeachment, an alarming development for opposition parties, which don't have enough votes to push through the impeachment motion themselves.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll in China's 2nd coal mine blast rises to 32

BEIJING (AP)—Thirty-two miners were confirmed dead Sunday in the second coal mine explosion in a week in China, state-run media reported. The gas explosion hit the mine in Chifeng city in the Inner Mongolia region midday Saturday. Out of 181 miners working underground, 149 managed to get out and the rest died, official Xinhua News Agency reported. The mine was operated by the Baoma Mining Co. Ltd., Xinhua said. News of the blast came just hours after 21 miners who were trapped for four days after an explosion hit their unlicensed coal mine were confirmed dead in northeast China's Heilongjiang province. Four people were arrested in connection with that disaster.

Body remains found after Indonesia plane with 13 disappears

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers in Indonesia have recovered body parts in the sea where a police plane with 13 people aboard is believed to have crashed after takeoff. The light aircraft lost contact Saturday off the southeast coast of Sumatra island near Singapore. Officials say all 13 aboard, including five crew and eight police passengers, are feared dead. National Search and Rescue Agency chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo says the M28 Skytruck plane is believed to have plunged into 24-meter (79-feet) deep waters. He told a news conference Sunday that body remains probably of the victims were found in the area where villagers earlier retrieved a seat and a bag containing a cellphone and police documents.

Afghan and US presidents discuss fight against terrorism

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government says U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani have emphasized their joint commitment to fighting terrorism in a phone conversation. Ghani's office said in a statement Saturday that Ghani congratulated Trump on his victory and expressed hopes for further cooperation between the countries under Trump's administration. The statement said that Ghani pointed out dedication of Afghan security forces in defending Afghan territorial integrity and expressed admiration for the sacrifices of U.S. and NATO troops in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan.

World

Fidel Castro's final resting spot shrouded in mystery

AP

Children stand behind a portrait of the late cuban leader Fidel Castro as they wait for the arrival of the motorcade carrying the ashes of Castro at the Cespedes park in Santiago, Cuba, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016.

SANTIAGO, Cuba (AP)—About a year ago, trucks full of building materials began arriving at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery in the eastern Cuban city of Santiago. On Saturday, a white cloth was draped over a new structure near the mausoleum for Cuban independence leader Jose Marti.

Beyond those few clues, the details of Fidel Castro's final resting place have been one of the most tightly kept secrets in Cuba. That is expected to end on Sunday morning, when the revolutionary leader's ashes are interred in a ceremony expected to give the world at least a brief glimpse of a tomb that will immediately become one of the most important sites on the island.

Cuban officials have said nothing about future access to Castro's tomb, but its apparent location alongside Marti's, a grand site heavily visited by tourists and Cubans alike, indicates that there will be some form of public access to the grave of the man who led Cuba for nearly 50 years and died on Nov. 25 at 90.

"It's a privilege to have him here," said Cruz Maria Pardo, 64, who worked at the cemetery cleaning the mausoleums for more than 20 years and said she had seen trucks bringing in materials for a little over a year.

Thousands if not millions of Cubans have lined the central roadway connecting the island's two largest cities over the last four days, chanting and waving banners as the cedar coffin carrying his remains drove by. In the country's vast, rural stretches, Cubans packed into buses and tractor trailers, many as part of work or school groups, to wait hours under a blistering sun to say goodbye.

On Sunday, his remains reached Santiago, the city where Castro launched his revolution and where a final, mass gathering in the city's Revolution Plaza was held before his ashes are interred at Santa Ifigenia.

The cemetery is located in the northwestern part of Santiago, about a half-kilometer from the bay. It was founded in 1868 and is the final resting place of some of the most important figures in Cuban history. Beyond a stately, white building at the entrance lies Marti's large mausoleum, a tower where there is a changing of the guard every half hour. Nearby stands a memorial to rebels killed in or executed by Batista's forces after the 1953 attack on the Moncada Barracks, Castro's initial, failed attempt to foment revolution.

"It's been a while since they've been bringing materials," said Roberto Lamar Herrera, 73, a retired railroad manager.

"We are going to take care of him," said his daughter, Ileana Lamar Rodriguez, 50.

Further into the cemetery lies the tomb of Compay Segundo, the singer and guitarist who garnered worldwide fame as a member of the Buena Vista Club. His above-ground tomb bears the image of a golden guitar, cloaked in one of his signature Panama hats.

Santa Ifigenia also houses the remains of historic figures whose families fled after the revolution and are seldom mentioned by officials, like Emilio Bacardi Moreau, who managed his family's rum dynasty and died in 1922. The Bacardi family left Cuba in the early years of the revolution after their properties were nationalized by the Castro government.

"All of the revolution's history is concentrated at that cemetery," said Jose Francisco Guillot Castillo, 59, a cook in an oil refinery who lives in a house with a tin roof on the nearby Raul Perozo Avenue.

Residents along the winding street spent Saturday making signs with revolutionary phrases like "I am Fidel," and hanging Cuban flags from their doorways. The street is named after a revolutionary fighter who residents say was dragged through the street and killed by Batista's forces. Today it is a mix of crumbling brick homes and new cinderblock constructions in bright coats of blue and aqua paint. The residents include a mix of factory workers, retired revolutionary combatants, engineers and students. A few signs for private business, including one specializing in eyeglass repair, line the street.

Early Saturday morning there were some state security officials on the street, several of which questioned an Associated Press reporter doing interviews with residents on the street and stood watch nearby as she proceeded to report.

Eugenio Rodriguez Fonseca, 82, who said he was part of the revolution's clandestine operations, stood outside his home, six golden metals commemorating his participation pinned to a worn white collared shirt.

"I'm crying inside," he said as his great-granddaughter sat nearby, the name "Fidel" painted across her forehead.

When Castro's funeral caravan passes by, he said he planned to render one final salute.

Rain and sorrow accentuate memorial for dead at Brazil club

CHAPECO, Brazil (AP)—On a rainy Saturday that only accentuated the grief, 20,000 people filled a tiny stadium under umbrellas and plastic ponchos to say goodbye to members of the Chapecoense soccer club who died in a plane crash.

The accident Monday in the Colombian Andes claimed most of the team's players and staff as it headed to the finals of one of Latin America's most important club tournaments. Seventy-one of the 77 people on board died, including 19 players on the team.

Rain-soaked mourners jammed the modest stadium with four or five times that many outside to pay homage to a modest club that nearly reached the pinnacle of Latin American soccer. In total, about half the population of the southern Brazilian city of 210,000 gathered.

Thousands also lined the roads as the coffins were driven in a procession from the airport to the stadium memorial.

"I've been here since early morning," said 19-year-old Chaiane Lorenzetti, who said she worked at a local supermarket frequented by club players and officials. "I'll never see some of my clients again. It's a devastating day that will last forever."

Soldiers wearing berets carried the coffins into the stadium on their shoulders, sloshing through standing water and mud on a field filled with funeral wreaths, club and national flags, and other tributes.

A tent, with the coffins placed underneath, stretched across the width of the soccer field. On top of the white tent, a sentence from the club's anthem was written for all to read.

"In happiness and in the most difficult hours," it said. "You are always a winner."

Family members and friends wept under the tents. Many hunched over the coffins with photos of the deceased placed on top or alongside as almost everything got splattered by the non-stop rain.

Brazilian President Michel Temer, who had not planned to visit the stadium for fear of being jeered, showed up after greeting the arrival of the bodies at the airport. He was treated respectfully and was joined by Gianni Infantino, the head of FIFA—the world governing body of soccer.

"This is a time for pain and suffering, not for talking," Infantino said. "No words can diminish the suffering."

Marco Polo Del Nero, the head of the Brazilian Football Confederation, was mildly applauded but also had insults shouted his way.

Ruins of homes in Kirkuk a sign of divisions to come in Iraq

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—All along the street, houses have been reduced to rubble in the central Iraqi city of Kirkuk. The work of Kurdish security forces retaliating against Sunni Arabs after a recent Islamic State group attack, residents say.

Kurdish security forces moved in with bulldozers and excavators and demolished at least 100 homes in the Huzeiran neighborhood of Kirkuk in the week after a deadly suicide bombing in October, according to residents interviewed by The Associated Press and a report by Human Rights Watch.

The destruction points to the dangerous divisions that threaten to burst out now that the IS "caliphate" appears on the verge of collapsing with the assault on its bastion Mosul further north.

Oil-rich Kirkuk, in northeastern Iraq, is a particular flashpoint: It is split between Kurdish, Arab and Turkmen populations, each of which have historically claimed it as its own. During the fight against IS, the Kurds seized control of the city and have said they will keep it, opening a likely dispute with the central government and the other local populations.

"This is my house and this is my tragedy," said one Arab resident of Huzeiran. The building that was once her family home now lies in ruin. She said Kurdish security forces came into the neighborhood, labelled her building "confiscated" and ejected her family. They also took their identification documents, she said, speaking on condition she only be identified by her nickname Umm Ahmed for fear of retaliation.

Associated Press video from the neighborhood showed dozens of destroyed buildings along several streets. New York-based Human Rights Watch documented at least 100 homes demolished there on October 23 and 24 by Kurdish security forces, displacing more than 300 families. Lying on the southern edge of Kirkuk proper, in addition to the neighborhood's residents, the area was also hosting mostly Sunni Arabs who fled villages around Kirkuk that were overrun by IS in 2014.

"We want to ask the joint forces and the government forces who demolished our houses, why they did it," said another Kirkuk resident whose house was destroyed and identity documents confiscated. He also asked to only be identified by a nickname Abu Abdullah due to concerns for his safety.

Iran demands that Obama allow US sanctions to expire

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's President Hassan Rouhani demanded Sunday that U.S. President Barack Obama not sign an extension of U.S. sanctions, saying the bill is a violation of a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

On Thursday the U.S. Senate voted to extend the Iran Sanctions Act by 10 years. Speaking in an open session of Iran's parliament Sunday, Rouhani said Obama is "obliged" to let the sanctions expire.

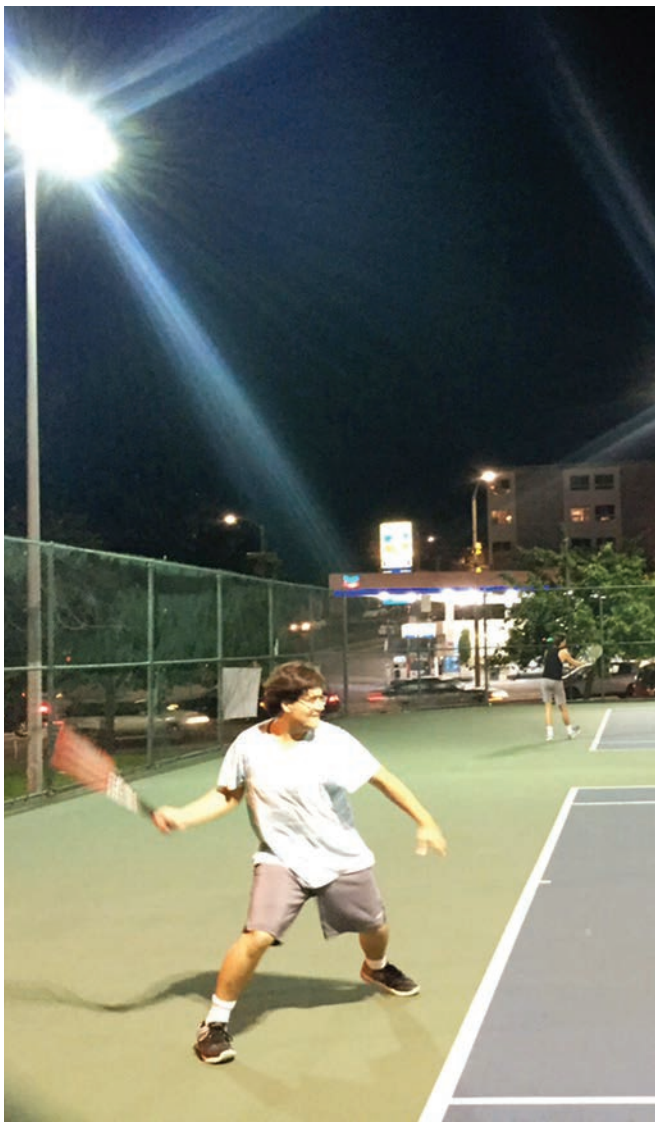
The nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers lifted a variety of international sanctions in exchange for limitations on the Iranian nuclear program. However the U.S. still maintains its own separate set of sanctions, which will expire on Dec. 31 if Obama does not sign the extension into law.

Rouhani promised a "prompt response" from Iran if the U.S. sanctions are extended.

"We are committed to an acceptable implementation of the deal but in response to non-commitment, violation or hesitation in its implementation, we will act promptly," he said.

Health & Fitness

For a long life, consider picking up a tennis racket



TNS

Public tennis courts in Echo Park, Calif. A new study found that among amateur athletes, tennis players had the best odds of staving off premature death.

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

You probably know that exercise is good for you, but do you know whether you're better off riding a bike or swimming laps in the pool?

Actually, if you want to get the biggest bang for your exercise buck, you should pick up a racket, new research reveals.

An analysis of more than 80,000 adults who were tracked for nearly a decade finds that those who played tennis, badminton or squash had the lowest risk of dying during the course of the study. Compared with people who didn't play racket sports, those who did were 47 percent less likely to die of any cause and 56 percent less likely to die as a result of cardiovascular disease.

If these kinds of sports aren't your racket, you could don a swimsuit and googles. In the study, swimmers were 28 percent less likely to die for any reason and 41 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease than were people who stayed out of the water.

Another good alternative is to join an aerobics, Zumba or other type of active fitness class. Those who did were 27 percent less likely to die of any cause and 36 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease during the study period than those who didn't.

The results, published Tuesday in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, are based on data from 43,705 women and 36,601 men who participated in the Health Survey for England or the Scottish Health Survey. These volunteers, whose average age was 52, told interviewers how often they exercised, what type of exercise they did and how intense their workouts were.

Swimming was the most popular type of exercise, claimed by 13.4 percent of study volunteers. Cycling was second, with 9.9 percent of volunteers saying they rode a bike either outside or in an indoor exercise class. Aerobics-type classes were third (6.4 percent of people took them), followed by running or jogging (5 percent), racket sports (3.6 percent) and football or rubgy (3.1 percent). Overall, 44.3 percent of people met minimum recommendations for some kind of physical activity.

The study authors checked to see how many of the volunteers died in subsequent years, tracking them for an average of 9.2 years. Overall, 8,790 of the study participants died, including 1,909 who succumbed to cardiovascular disease.

The risk of death was not spread equally, the researchers found. Compared with people who didn't get enough exercise, those who met the minimum standards were 27 percent less likely to die of any reason and 28 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease during the course of the study.

Cyclists had a 15 percent lower risk of death from any cause than noncyclists, but cycling didn't have a significant effect on the risk of cardiovascular death.

Runners and joggers were no less likely than their counterparts to die of cardiovascular disease or anything else during the study period. Ditto for those who played football or rugby.

All of the calculations were adjusted to account for each person's age, level of education, body mass index, underlying physical and psychological health, smoking status and drinking habits.

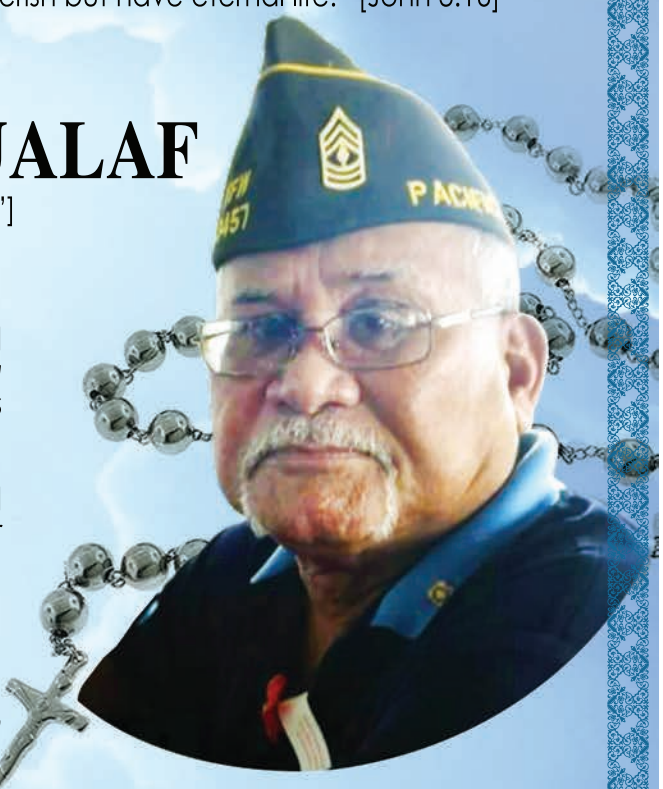
For all six types of exercise, the median age of death from any cause was "considerably lower" for participants than for nonparticipants. (The age gap ranged from 3.6 years for aerobics to 23 years for football and rugby.) The study authors said this pattern was due to the fact that for every sport, the median age of participants was lower than the median age for nonparticipants. It should not be taken as a sign that exercise "leads to earlier death," they wrote.

I Am Safely Home

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." [John 3:16]

MATIAS CHARGUALAF

[Affectionately known as "**Mac**"]



born on September 05, 1948 to his proud parents, the late ***Angel I. Chargualaf and Maria A. Chargualaf***, has gone to his new life in God's Paradise on November 26, 2016.

As he enters God's Paradise, he is greeted and reunited with his parents, his brother ***Joseph A. Chargualaf***, his parents-in-law ***Antonio Reyes and Maria Villagomez Deleon Guerrero***; his brothers and sisters in law, ***Pedro V. and Jeannette M. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael V. Deleon Guerrero, Gregorio V. and Vanessa Y. Deleon Guerrero; and, Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero.***

Mac lived a fulfilling, blessed, and enjoyable life with his wife of forty-two years, ***Celina DLG. Chargualaf***. His strong family ties, unique and warm personality, laughter, jokes, friendship, leadership, his willingness to help in every way he could, and most especially his unconditional love will forever live on in the hearts of his wife, his children and grandchildren -- ***Carol DLG. Chargualaf; Cathy C. and Dennis S. Matsumoto [Akoni Jesus and Logan Matthew]***.

His absence will be greatly missed by his brothers, sisters and their families -- ***Doris Nesmith*** and family; ***Ignacio*** A. and Frances Chargualaf and family; ***Benny*** A. and Jean Chargualaf and family; ***Johnny*** A. and Lou Chargualaf and family; ***Mary C***. and John Mendiola and family; and ***Evelyn*** A. Chargualaf; and shared by his brothers and sisters-in-law and their families – children of Pedro and Jeannette; Edith and Joaquin Cruz; Angie V. Deleon Guerrero; JM V. and Rieko Deleon Guerrero and son; children of Gregorio and Vanessa; Alice Deleon Guerrero and family; Ramon V. and Sophie C. Deleon Guerrero and family; Margaret DLG. and Ricardo Camacho and family. He will also be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends, especially his co-workers at the Saipan Mayor's Office and the VFW family.

Masses of intention for the repose of his soul are offered daily at 6:00 p.m. and the recitation of the Holy Rosary follows immediately at St. Jude Church in Koblerville. Mac ***will be with us for the last time on Monday, December 05, 2016. Visitation and last respects may be paid at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. with interment services to follow immediately thereafter at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi where he will be laid to peaceful rest.***

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

CELINA DLG. CHARGUALAF
Carol, Cathy & Dennis and grandsons
Chargualaf & Deleon Guerrero families

Life & Style

Keys, lightbulbs tied to Thomas Edison sell at auction

DALLAS (AP)—Keys to the New Jersey lab where Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and some of the lightbulbs that he perfected sold for more than $60,000 at auction on Saturday.

The keys sold for $10,625 at an auction run by Heritage Auctions in Dallas. A bulb created by a German inventor who claimed to have invented the incandescent lightbulb before Edison did was sold for $23,750, while a set of five Edison bulbs used in a court case sold for $30,000.

The items were acquired by Charlie Knudsen, 69, of Pittsburgh, and had belonged to his great-aunt. She was married to one of the attorneys whose law firm represented Edison in patent lawsuits.

Tags on some of the keys list the doors that they opened, including Edison's 1876 lab that became known as the "invention factory." Another key says "motor shed," and a third "shop."

This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows Thomas A. Edison: Keys to His Menlo Park Laboratory on display. Six keys in all from the famous inventor's Menlo Park home and work place will be auctioned Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 in Dallas, along with five lightbulbs, including two that he created. Heritage Auctions will open the bidding on the two lots. AP

Edison had applied for about 400 patents, including improvements to the incandescent bulb, before he left for New York City in 1882, said Kathleen Carlucci, director of the Thomas Edison Center in New Jersey.

The lab itself was built by Edison's father about 30 miles northeast of Trenton and was the world's largest in its day. Carlucci said it also was "the first research and development facility."

The bulbs up for auction were part of a collection used in patent infringement lawsuits. "One bulb in particular was used in a case where he (Edison) was able to prove he had a patent," Knudsen said.

After making lightbulbs commercially viable, the "Wizard of Menlo Park" turned his attention to New York City where he worked to develop an electric utility.

Squatters took over the abandoned Menlo Park property, raising chickens and crops, Carlucci said. Local residents held dances in the lab.

Today, Menlo Park is a national historic site and a state park. None of the original buildings remain, but a museum and education center highlight Edison's accomplishments.

A 131-foot memorial tower to commemorate his work on the lightbulb stands on the site. It was restored last year and its 14-foot tall replica bulb shines in the night.

Semper (and suffer) Fidel: Artists conflicted about Castro

NEW YORK (AP)—As a prominent advocate for human rights, the poet Rose Styron knew well the abuses in Fidel Castro's Cuba and the censorship of artists and publications with dissenting views. But when she and her husband, author William Styron, were invited to meet him in 2000 she didn't hesitate to accept.

"He was an interesting, controversial, obviously very intelligent and charismatic figure," she says of Castro, who died Nov. 25 at age 90. "And in the back of my head, I was also thinking there might be a way to persuade him not to put people in prison for free speech."

For the Styrons and other artists, Castro was a contradiction they never quite resolved, a man equally hard to embrace or to ignore. He was the bold revolutionary who defied the U.S. government and inspired the left worldwide and the long-winded despot who drove out Eliseo Alberto, Daina Chaviano and other prominent writers and reminded artists of the right-wing leaders they had traditionally opposed.

But Castro was intriguing to the creative community in part because he was intrigued in return. Ernest Hemingway fished with him. Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir were early visitors after Castro took power in 1959 and Gabriel Garcia Marquez a longtime supporter. Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz and other jazz musicians performed in Cuba. Norman Mailer, who met Castro in the late 1980s, would list him along with Charlie Chaplin, Muhammad Ali and Ezra Pound as among the four great geniuses he knew personally.

Many had mixed feelings. "Ironweed" novelist William Kennedy shared happy memories of speaking for hours with Castro when both were at the home of Garcia Marquez, but also called some of his actions "abhorrent." Harry Belafonte discussed everything from rap music to Hollywood movies with Castro, but could never fully accept him.

"Fidel was so charismatic, his energy so powerful, his legacy in some ways so admirable, in other ways so sad," Belafonte wrote in his memoir "My Song," published in 2011. "I genuinely liked him, but I can't say he was my role model."

Belafonte and others followed a similar pattern with Castro, initial exhilaration over the Cuban revolution giving way to disillusion, if not outright rejection. Todd Tietchen, author of "The Cubalogues: Beat Writers in Revolutionary Havana," says that Allen Ginsberg and other poets were drawn to the "politics of style—beards, berets, long hair" that Castro and his ally Ernesto "Che" Guevara helped personify. But while visiting in the mid-1960s, Ginsberg saw gays rounded up and sent to work camps. He quickly, and publicly, became a government critic.

"He called Castro's heterosexuality in question, confessed that he wanted to sleep with Che, and challenged the Castro government to invite The Beatles to play a national concert in Cuba as he thought the band's long hair and their 'high tender voices' might insert some much-needed androgyny into the island's culture," Tietchen says. "When Castro finally had enough, he had Ginsberg seized and placed on the next plane out of Cuba."

When the Styrons arrived in 2000, their entourage included Garcia Marquez and playwright Arthur Miller, who would describe their time with Castro in a long essay published in The Nation. Miller, who died in 2005, wrote that he had anticipated a stale affair in the spirit of his encounters with Eastern European leaders.

"I expected to have to do a lot of agreeable nodding in silence to statements manifestly silly if not at times idiotic," he explained in his essay. "Unelected leaders and their outriders are unusually sensitive to contradiction, and the experience of their company can be miserably boring."

Rose Styron noted that she had attempted to visit Cuba before, on behalf of Amnesty International, but the government rejected her application for a visa. When she finally saw Castro, she was surprised by the neatness of his appearance, a well-tailored suit and not the fatigues of his earlier years.

Disney teases 28 minutes of 'Star Wars' spinoff 'Rogue One'

MARIN, Calif. (AP)—The secretive "Star Wars" spinoff movie "Rogue One" just got a little more tangible.

Disney and Lucasfilm unveiled 28 minutes of footage for reporters on Friday at Skywalker Ranch, teasing the origin story of the band of rebels who aim to steal the plans for the Death Star—the event that sets into motion the plot of the original 1977 "Star Wars."

The footage skipped around in time and story line, but essentially sets up a world on the brink of rebellion. The Empire's agents are everywhere, with stormtroopers roaming the streets searching for dissidents.

We meet the protagonist, Jyn Erso, as a young child whose parents, Galen (Mads Mikkelsen) and Lyra (Valene Kane), are of particular interest to the Empire, and specifically Ben Mendelsohn's Director Orson Krennic. Without revealing anything else, it's the specific origin story that still eludes audiences when it comes to the most recent "Star Wars" heroine, Rey. But twists and turns seem to await spectators in "Rogue One," which finds a grown Jyn (Felicity Jones) in cahoots with the rebel alliance on a dangerous mission to try to stop the Empire from building their planet destroyer.

Director Gareth Edwards introduced the footage Friday, joking that they thought about showing 30 minutes but decided they needed to save something. The film was screened for the cast recently, but few have seen the final product, which will premiere Dec. 10 in Los Angeles before hitting theaters Dec. 16.

The highlight reel set the stage for many of the principle characters, like Diego Luna's street smart Alliance Captain Cassian Andor, Forest Whitaker's extremist Saw Gerrera and Donnie Yen's mysterious, blind Chirrut Imwe. It also established a world that will look quite familiar to anyone who's seen the 1977 "Star Wars." Costumes, characters, and sets from that first film—and some of the prequels—populate this universe, including Alliance leader Mon Mothma (Genevieve O'Reilly) and Bail Organa (Jimmy Smits) and a few other cheeky surprises.

"Rogue One" also takes audiences to planets and environs that aren't standard settings in "Star Wars" films, including a beach and a bustling marketplace.

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" is the first of three planned spinoff films set inside the "Star Wars" universe, including a young Han Solo film set for 2018. The so-called anthology films are separate from the main trilogy, which kicked off last year with "The Force Awakens," and will continue next year with "Episode VIII."

"We're on sacred ground here," Edwards said, pointing to a seat the middle of the theater where he said George Lucas would watch and edit his films.

Edwards said he pitched his vision for the film to Lucasfilm development executive Kiri Hart on the Skywalker Ranch campus.

More than cookie sellers, Girl Scouts enter music industry

NEW YORK (AP)—The Girl Scouts of the USA are used to making you smile with sweet cookies, but now they're hoping to soothe your ears with sweet music.

The organization announced Thursday that they've recorded an original song for the first time, featuring backup vocals from actual Girl Scouts.

"Watch Me Shine" was written by Liz Rose, who has won Grammys for her work with Taylor Swift and Little Big Town, and Emily Shackleton, who sings lead on the song.

The track is being used in a Girl Scouts PSA called "I'm Prepared," which praises girls for being leaders, problem solvers and innovators.

It's available on iTunes, Google Play and Amazon Music. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Girl Scouts organization.

Madonna raises $7.5M for Malawi, slams Trump in Miami show

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Madonna kissed Ariana Grande, repeatedly criticized President elect Donald Trump and said she was ashamed to be an American in a magnetic performance in Miami on Friday night where she raised more than $7.5 million for the African nation of Malawi.

The Material Girl dug deep into her personal treasures, auctioning off pieces from her own art collection, a costume from her tour modeled by Grande and black and white photos from her 1985 wedding to ex-husband Sean Penn shot by the late photographer Herb Ritts. The trio of wedding photos sold for $230,000.

Penn, who attended the fundraiser and bid on several pricey items when the auction stalled, handcuffed Madonna and crawled through her legs at one point as the two tried to coerce the audience to bid higher.

"For once, he's not the one being arrested," she joked.

The party lasted until early Saturday morning when Madonna took the stage for an hour-long performance before a star studded crowd that included Leonardo DiCaprio, Chris Rock, Dave Chappelle, James Corden, ex-boyfriend A-Rod and Courtney Love. The fundraiser was just one of the many parties during Art Basel Miami Beach, a contemporary art fair.

AP
Madonna performs during Art Basel Miami Beach, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Madonna, who performed in a pink sequined clown top and fishnet stockings, seemed to hold nothing back, especially her opinions on the election, joking with the audience that she had promised to perform sexual favors for those who voted for Hillary.

She coyly said she'd been in Donald Trump's bed, but later revealed it was for a magazine photo shoot and that Trump wasn't even there—and she criticized his cheap sheets.

"They won't be Egyptian cotton because we all know how he feels about Muslims don't we," she said as some audience members gasped.

She gyrated to a slowed-down version of Britney Spears' "Toxic" and seductively sang, "You know that you're toxic," as images of Trump appeared on a large screen behind her.

At one point, she walked into the audience, climbing on tables and giving one man a lap dance. She abruptly stood up at another point, grabbed the chair on which she had performed and said she also wanted to auction it, noting $600 could send a girl in Malawi to secondary school and $2,000 would cover her university expenses. The chair sold for $10,000.

Other notable items included a Damien Hirst painting, a private performance by magician David Blaine, who was also at the event, and a weeklong stay at DiCaprio's home in Palm Springs, which fetched $140,000. A print by artist Tracey Emin from Madonna's personal art collection, sold for $550,000.

Madonna adopted her 11-year-old son David from an orphanage in Malawi more than a decade ago. At the time, she said, "I didn't know where Malawi was" on the map. David had pneumonia and malaria. His mother died in childbirth and his siblings were also dead.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Country artist Granger Smith breaks ribs after stage fall

SAYREVILLE, N.J. (AP)—Country music artist Granger Smith was able to continue performing after falling from a stage in New Jersey, but was later hospitalized. A spokeswoman said in a statement Smith shared on Twitter that he fell while singing at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville on Friday night. Smith was being treated for two broken ribs and a punctured and partially collapsed lung. Smith was standing on an audio monitor when it gave way and he fell into a metal barricade. He got back up and continued performing. He says he took a pretty hard spill but hopes to be out of the hospital soon to head home to his family in Texas. Shows this weekend in North Carolina and Texas were canceled. Information about future shows will be released later.

"Rogue One" director Gareth Edwards has a cameo in the film

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Director Gareth Edwards says he gave himself a cameo in the "Star Wars" spinoff "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." But, as with most things "Star Wars," Edwards is staying mum on what exactly that entails. The reveal, he said, might have to wait for the DVD extras. Edwards is a self-proclaimed "Star Wars" super fan and has said that as a child he used to watch the first 10 minutes of the 1977 "Star Wars" every day before school. "Rogue One" is set right before the events of that original film and chronicles the saga of the rebels who steal the plans for the Death Star. Arriving in theaters on Dec. 16, "Rogue One" is the first in a series of spinoffs set inside the universe of "Star Wars."

Maisie Williams: Stop going to dolphin shows

TOKYO (AP)—"Game of Thrones" star Maisie Williams wants everyone to stop buying tickets to marine shows. She says it's the best way to stop the capture and killings of dolphins in Japan.

"These animals travel the ocean. That's what they explore daily. No tank will be big enough. No tank will ever be deep enough, ever be exciting enough," she said Friday in a Skype call from the small Japanese town of Taiji, whose dolphin hunt was documented in the 2009 Oscar-winning film "The Cove."

Williams, 19, is the latest celebrity joining the cause to save dolphins. Others include Brian May of Queen, Sting and Daryl Hannah.

She hopes her influence, especially on social media, with 4 million followers on Instagram and 1.5 million on Twitter, will help the cause.

Williams

Ric O'Barry, the dolphin trainer for the "Flipper" TV series, started the protests against the Taiji dolphin kill. He starred in "The Cove," which depicts a pod of dolphins getting herded into an inlet and bludgeoned to death.

The ones that are killed and sold for meat are left over from the main purpose of the hunt—selling the best-looking ones to aquariums and shows.

The hunters in Taiji and their supporters have repeatedly defended the custom as tradition, although eating dolphins is extremely rare in Japan. The Japanese government also defends whaling as research.

Williams, who is the global ambassador for O'Barry's Dolphin Project campaign, said that only a handful of Taiji fishermen are benefiting from the practice and many Japanese don't even know about Taiji.

"It's not an attack on Japan at all, or on Taiji, or the people of Taiji," she said. "I want to say, honestly, hand on heart, that this is not an attack on anyone in specific."

"The Cove," directed by Louis Psihoyos, which was not widely shown in Japan, went online Friday for free viewinglimited to Japan and in a Japanese language version, after the filmmakers rebought distribution rights.

Williams said she went to the cove earlier in the day, but there was no slaughter.

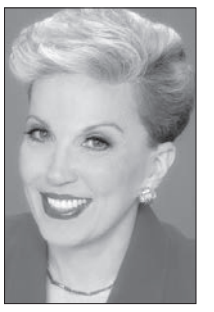
During her trip, her second time in Japan, she plans to go whale-watching in Mikura Islands, south of Tokyo, where whales are protected and dolphins are often seen swimming in the wild.

"It was something that just struck a chord in my heart. And I'm a firm believer that, if there is something that you really want to stand up and fight for, then you should. And with everyone doing their own little bit for what they believe in, hopefully together we can make the world a better place," she said of her wish to save dolphins.

Mom stressed by one child should not try for another

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter asked me if she should have another child, and based on what I have observed with her first, I definitely feel she shouldn't. I want a polite way to respond without hurting her feelings, but can't find the words.

She loves her child, but loses patience quickly. She can't handle it when her 2-year-old whines or cries. Sometimes she needs to leave the house. Can you help?

DEFINITELY NOT IN OREGON

DEAR DEFINITELY NOT: Every parent feels this way sometimes. That's why God invented grandparents and baby sitters. However, if you feel your daughter can't handle the stress, be honest with her and tell her why you have "concerns."

DEAR ABBY: My daughter has been friends with twin girls for several years. Their parents are divorced, and we've always known that money is tight in their family. We invite them over to eat as often as we can, and they know our home is their home and a safe place.

The girls are now all applying to colleges, but the twins have repeatedly expressed concern that they don't have enough money to pay the ACT submission fees or the college submission fees. They are both working long hours and trying to save money for college.

We are in a position to help them submit these applications, but don't know how to approach the topic. We are not close with either of their parents. Most important, we don't want to risk a parent telling the girls they can't spend time at our home. How can we help?

ENOUGH TO SHARE

DEAR ENOUGH TO SHARE: You are generous and compassionate to want to do this. Because the girls spend so much time at your home, it's likely their parents already know their daughters are friendly with your family. I do not think it would be offensive if you were to call the parents and make the offer. If they are reluctant to accept, you could propose it as a "loan" that can be repaid after the girls graduate.

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law died a couple of months ago, and since then my mother-in-law insists that one of her kids spend the night with her. She told them that "people" have told her she should not spend a night alone for at least a year.

This is causing grief and bitterness because my husband has explained to her that when he stayed the first two weeks, he left me at home alone, and it was time she started facing things and move on.

What are the obligations of the children when a parent dies? His mother doesn't need them financially. Are we being too hard on her, or does she need to seek help with moving on? We are afraid that if she keeps this up, she's going to push herself into an early grave or drive her kids away.

TIRED OF SLEEPING ALONE

DEAR TIRED: My deepest sympathy to your mother-in-law for her loss, but it is not the responsibility of an adult child to leave his (or her) spouse to sleep with Mama for a year. A week or two, perhaps—but certainly not a year.

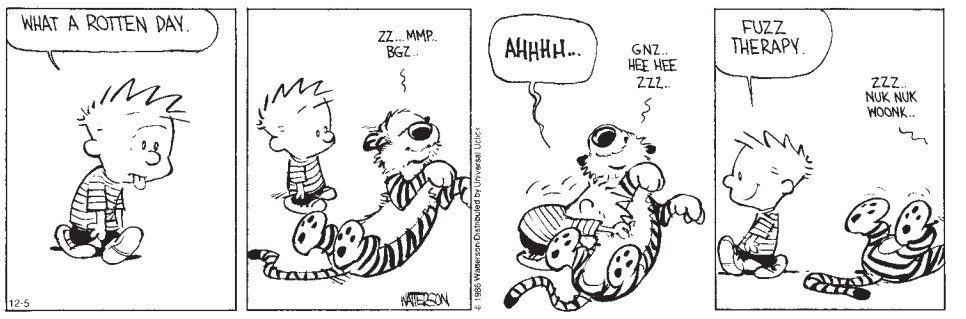
His mother should talk to her clergyperson or doctor about joining a grief support group to help her through this difficult time. And if she's afraid to be alone in the house -- and she's an animal lover -- a solution to that could be for her to adopt a dog from an animal rescue organization.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NO MALL FOR US THIS YEAR, GARFIELD...WE'RE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE!
SOUNDS GOOD. HAVE FUN
I'LL BE IN THE FOOD COURT
GET OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR!
JIM DAVIS 12-5
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/garfield
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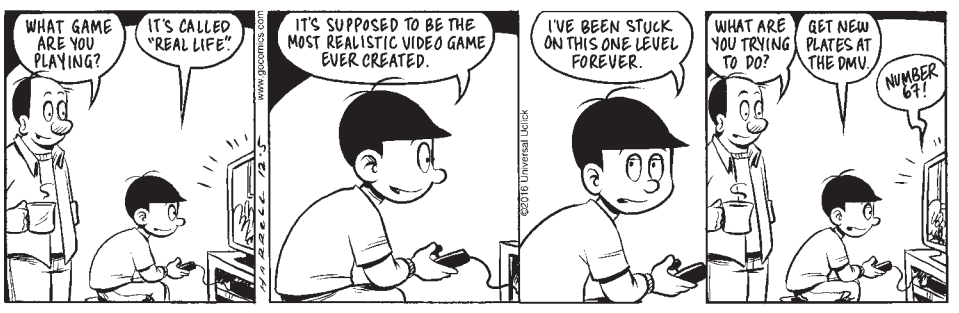
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
IT'S CALLED "REAL LIFE."
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST REALISTIC VIDEO GAME EVER CREATED.
I'VE BEEN STUCK ON THIS ONE LEVEL FOREVER.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
GET NEW PLATES AT THE DMV.
NUMBER 67!
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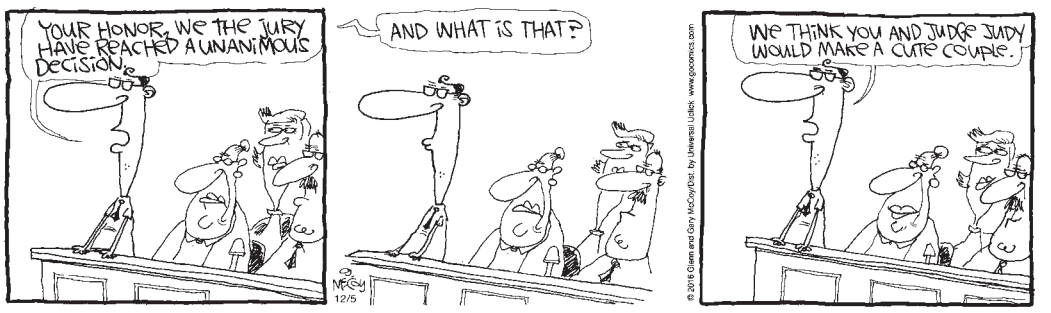
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOUR HONOR, WE THE JURY HAVE REACHED A UNANIMOUS DECISION.
AND WHAT IS THAT?
WE THINK YOU AND JUDGE JUDY WOULD MAKE A CUTE COUPLE.
MCCOY 12/5
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Awe-struck
5 Ump
8 Uttered
12 Greek cheese
13 Slithery fish
14 Brownish purple
15 N. Mex. neighbor
16 London airport
18 Ebb
20 Salad base
21 Gravy vessel
23 Sports-caster Cross
24 Annie's song
28 Billions of years
31 GI enter-tainers
32 "— Is Born"
34 "Rocks"
35 Chignons
37 Admits to a mistake
39 Salt Lake athlete
41 Jared of "Panic Room"
42 Salad ingredient
45 Countri-fied
49 Held by a third party, as funds
51 Netting
52 Zilch
53 Actress Gardner
54 Capital on a fjord
55 Sciences' partner
56 Non-clerical
57 Dance move

DOWN

1 Miles away
2 Richard of "Chicago"
3 Ear-related
4 Garden pavilion
5 Practice a play
6 Shoe width
7 Banner
8 Orb
9 French farewell
10 PC picture
11 Morning droplets
17 Part of TNT
19 Nickel-odeon's "Explorer"
22 Sum
24 Vat
25 Buck-eyes' sch.
26 Mount Rush-more, for one
27 River or canal
29 Sgt., e.g.
30 Stitch
33 Queue after Q
36 Equilibria
38 Carl Sagan series
40 And so on (Abbr.)
42 Turner or Fey
43 — about (circa)
44 Spoken
46 Try out
47 Capri, for one
48 Karate blow
50 Eggs

Solution time: 28 mins.

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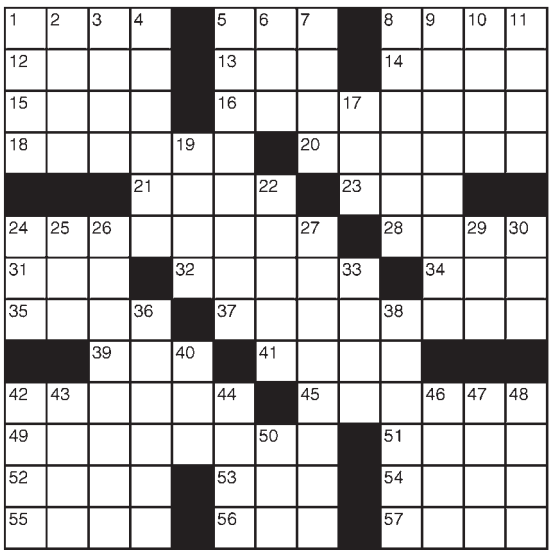
Friday's answer 12 - 5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 31; Margaret Cho, 48; John Rzeznik, 51; Little Richard, 84.

Happy Birthday: Take control of your life and start to do the things that make you happy and healthy. You can bring about positive changes that will encourage you to be your best. Don't listen to negativity or people who try to discourage you from living life your way. The harder you work, the greater your opportunities will become. Your numbers are 2, 13, 16, 21, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Tell it like it is and do whatever has to be done to get it right. Don't saddle yourself with nonsense that is a waste of time when directing your time and energy more efficiently will lead you to the winner's circle. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let emotions and anxiety lead to anger and disappointment. Concentrate on what you can do to make your life better. Educational pursuits and communicating with people who have something to offer should be your priority. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look for interesting new ways to improve your everyday chores, responsibilities or your job. An energetic approach to what really matters to you will help you finish what you start and encourage you to start something new. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let life unfold naturally. Observe what's going on around you until you see situations clearly enough to make a decision that will have a positive influence on your life. Too much of anything will be unhealthy. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Examine your motivations for getting involved in something before you jump in. If your reasons aren't true to your beliefs, it may be time to change course. Take charge of your life so no one else can. Make a commitment to excel. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Networking and socializing are favored as long as you don't make unrealistic promises or expect too much. Learn from what others divulge and how they respond, but do your own research. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get past the discord and family dynamics and strive to make plans that will bring you closer to the ones you love. Keeping the peace isn't always easy, but showing how much you care will be a good place to begin. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Tell it like it is and move on to your next mission. Take the route that suits you best. A decision you make at home will increase your desire to learn new things. Don't worry about what others think. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make this a day of new beginnings. Start from the ground up and make the adjustments that will support the dreams you want to create and the goals you want to achieve. Open the door when opportunity knocks. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your thoughts and plans simple and finish what you start. Seeing things through will be its own reward. Keep your dreams alive and your goals in perspective. Try to avoid minor injury and accidents. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a level head regardless of what other people do. It's in your best interest to do what will bring you the most in return. An emotional change will help to stabilize your life and your future. Opportunity must not be wasted. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stay on track. Don't lose sight of the truth and what's transpired in the past. Refuse to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. There are other ways to help that will bring you far more in return. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, witty and adaptable. You are adventurous and entertaining.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		1		8		9	
8	2			9			4	6
		6				1		
7			9		4			1
	8			5			3	
3			6		2			5
		7				5		
4	6			7			1	3
	3		8		9		2	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	3	2	6	9	8	5	4
4	9	2	3	8	5	1	6	7
8	5	6	4	1	7	2	3	9
5	4	1	7	9	3	6	8	2
9	3	7	8	2	6	4	1	5
6	2	8	1	5	4	9	7	3
7	8	9	6	3	2	5	4	1
3	1	5	9	4	8	7	2	6
2	6	4	5	7	1	3	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

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S	T	T	E	K	C	I	R	H	I	N	S	K	E	W
C	C	C	R	E	T	S	E	L	A	C	K	E	Y	M
O	O	H	H	O	D	D	O	O	W	R	C	H	M	I
N	R	G	W	A	Z	R	E	L	O	S	I	I	J	A
T	O	E	H	A	P	Z	A	Ⓢ	Ⓝ	Ⓤ	Ⓡ	T	O	R
R	B	D	T	L	R	M	I	W	Y	G	D	S	N	O
E	U	O	N	N	A	B	A	R	Y	S	N	Z	E	M
R	O	S	S	O	O	N	E	N	T	E	E	G	S	L
A	L	T	S	I	R	M	O	R	F	N	H	H	L	A
S	L	R	E	E	O	B	O	C	I	O	Y	Y	H	T
B	E	O	F	G	L	D	I	T	N	D	W	E	O	E
U	Z	P	T	E	E	L	R	Z	E	A	B	L	Y	I
C	R	N	E	D	W	A	R	D	S	A	L	L	E	R
N	O	D	D	A	M	A	L	L	E	E	M	B	R	R
M	B	R	Y	A	N	T	S	I	R	B	O	Z	D	A

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Almora, Arrieta, Baez, Blanco, Borzello, Bosio, Bryant, Chapman, Coghlan, Contreras, Cubs, Edwards, Fowler, Grimm, Hendricks, Heyward, Hinske, Hits, Hoyer, Hyde, Jones, Lackey, Lester, Maddon, Mallee, Martinez, Montero, Montgomery, Noble, Ricketts, Rizzo, Rondon, Runs, Russell, Schwarber, Soler, Strode, Strop, Team, Wood, Zobrist

Last Friday's Answer: Mail

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SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2016 **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TRACTOR MOWER WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES"

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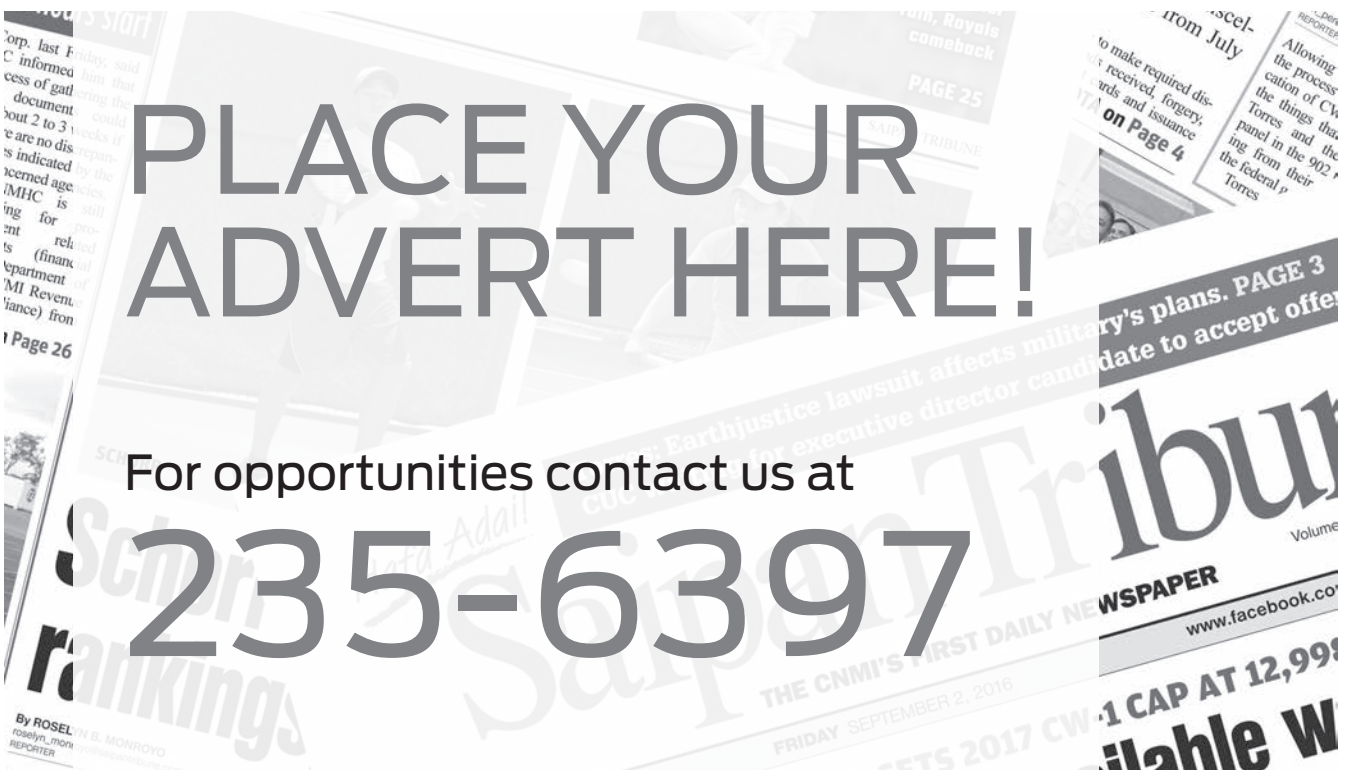

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Warriors at 106 regular season games without losing 2 in row

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Nope, Stephen Curry didn't know the last time Golden State dropped two in a row during the regular season.

Draymond Green? Negative.

That's because it's been quite a while: April 2015, to be exact.

"Let's see, I think it was my second year in the league. My third year?" Green pondered. "We didn't lose two in a row last year."

The Warriors realize how remarkable it is, that brilliant, NBA-best ability to bounce back. You bet, this bunch gets mad about losing.

Curry scored 20 of his 31 points in the third quarter and Golden State ran its NBA-record streak of regular season games without consecutive losses to 106 by beating the Phoenix Suns 138-109 on Saturday night.

"We're a bunch of real pros. We don't have letups that often, but when we do we respond the best we can," Klay Thompson said. "I thought tonight was a perfect example of that. I don't know how long we can keep that streak alive. It's really impressive, I'm not going to lie. It's something we're really proud of because it shows the world that we respond when we have an off night. The other night was one of those and tonight we made up for it."

Curry hit five 3-pointers and Thompson added 26 points and a season-high six 3s. Kevin Durant had 20 points and eight assists and Green a season-best 13 assists to go with nine points for Golden State, which hasn't lost back-to-back games during the regular season since April 2015 to San Antonio and New Orleans during its championship season.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, center, drives between Phoenix Suns' Dragan Bender, left, and Alex Len during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Grizzlies 103, Lakers 100

In Memphis, Tennessee, Troy Daniels scored a career-high 31 points as the Memphis Grizzlies hung on for a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday night after Julius Randle missed three free throws with 5.9 seconds left.

Lou Williams converted a three-point play with 51 seconds remaining to pull the Lakers within one possession, and they had a chance to tie when Gasol fouled Randle on a 3-point attempt.

Daniels shot 12 of 23 from the field, including 6 of 12 from 3-point range. Marc Gasol had 19 points, and JaMychal Green added 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Williams scored a season-best 40 points for the Lakers. Luol Deng added 18.

Timberwolves 125, Hornets 120, OT

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points, while Karl-Anthony Towns added 27 points and 15 rebounds as Minnesota erased a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Charlotte in overtime.

Zack LaVine added 17 points and Ricky Rubio had nine points and 12 assists for the Timberwolves. They snapped a four-game losing streak and avoided being swept by the Hornets for the third straight season.

Towns, a dominant force on the glass all night, had six points in overtime, including a backbreaking follow off a missed shot with 21 seconds left to put the Timberwolves up by six. Towns sealed the victory with two free throws with 3.9 seconds remaining.

Minnesota tied the game in regulation behind 3-pointers from LaVine, Rubio and Wiggins in the final two minutes. Wiggins' pull-up 3 in transition with 8.9 seconds tied the game at 106.

Walker led Charlotte with 22 points and eight assists. Frank Kaminsky had 21 points, and Nic Batum had 15 points and 12 assists.

Raptors 128, Hawks 84

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan had 21 points and Kyle Lowry and Patrick Patterson each added 17 in Toronto's victory over Atlanta.

Lowry also had eight assists and eight rebounds to help Toronto win its sixth straight and tie Cleveland for the Eastern Conference lead. The NBA champion Cavaliers will be in Toronto on Monday night in an Eastern Conference Finals rematch.

Dennis Schroder had 15 points and six assists for the Hawks, Dwight Howard had 10 points and 17 rebounds, and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 15 points. They have lost six in a row.

Mavericks 107, Bulls 82

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half in Dallas' victory over Chicago.

Harrison Barnes scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half to help Dallas win its second straight game after losing 13 of its first 15.

Chicago was coming off a 111-105 victory over defending champion Cleveland on Friday night, the Bulls' only win in their last four. Jimmy Butler led Chicago with 26 points.

Celtics 107, 76ers 106

In Philadelphia, Isaiah Thomas scored 12 straight Boston points late in the fourth quarter and tied his season high with 37 points to lead the Celtics past Philadelphia.

Avery Bradley added 20 points for Boston. The Celtics have won nine in a row against the 76ers.

Rookie Dario Saric tied his career high with 21 points and had 12 rebounds for Philadelphia. The 76ers have lost sixth straight.

Trail blazers 99, Heat 92

In Portland, Oregon, Damian Lillard scored 19 points and CJ McCollum added 17, including a pair of key late baskets, to rally Portland past Miami.

Hassan Whiteside had 28 points and 18 rebounds for the Heat.

McCollum's layup tied it at 92 with 1:44 to go. Maurice Harkless banked in a jumper to give Portland a 94-92 lead. McCollum added a jumper with just under a minute left to make it 96-92.

Jazz 105, Nuggets 98

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward matched his season high with 32 points as Utah beat Denver.

The Jazz used a 31-8 stretch in the third quarter to blow open the game. Hayward took over, scoring both inside and on the perimeter, with 21 points in the quarter. He has third 30-point games in a row.

Wilson Chandler and Will Barton each had 20 for Denver.

Bucks 112, Nets 103

In Milwaukee, Matthew Dellavedova scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, helping Milwaukee hold off Brooklyn for its fourth straight victory.

John Henson led Milwaukee with 20 points and added seven rebounds, and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Bojan Bogdanovic led Brooklyn with 24 points.

Players: Kerr's marijuana admission could spark dialogue

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— David West has undergone four surgeries in his long NBA career: left knee, right elbow and right foot twice to fix a couple of toes.

"I don't even like saying all that," he said.

So, yes, just like his coach who tried medicinal marijuana to get some relief, West knows real pain. Draymond Green has never needed an operation—he knocks on a table not once but twice as to not jinx himself—yet he considers that the option of using marijuana "makes a lot of sense."

"I'm always struck every time I'm home on the couch watching a sporting event, some drug commercial comes on, they show these happy people jumping in a lake, rowing a boat, then you just wait for the qualifier," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said a day after revealing he tried marijuana for severe back pain . "Side effects include suicidal thoughts and possible death. And you're like, this is insane. Insane."

Kerr's players believe his voice can go far in starting a serious, thoughtful dialogue in professional sports regarding pot use for pain relief.

"You look at something that comes from the Earth. Any vegetable that comes from the Earth, they encourage you to eat it," Green said at shootaround Saturday. "It does make a little sense as opposed to giving someone a manufactured pill. If something takes your pain away like some of these pills do, it can't be all good for you. ... He talked about Vicodin. Toradal, you can be completely hurting and then take a Toradal shot and go through a game and feel nothing. Is that really good for you over the course of time? I doubt it."

The reigning NBA Coach of the Year acknowledged he tried marijuana twice in the past 18 months while dealing with debilitating back pain that still affects him this season.

"First, I'm disappointed it didn't work. I really wanted some relief and I didn't get it. Having done the research it was well worth a try," Kerr said Saturday.

"You can see it with our country, our country is starting to wisen up on the medicinal marijuana side. I hope we can wisen up on the prescription drug side. That's scary stuff and it's really not talked about often enough."

Kerr told Comcast SportsNet Bay Area's Warriors Insider Podcast with Monte Poole on Friday that he used medicinal marijuana but it didn't help—and painkillers have often been worse.

On Saturday, Kerr said he was surprised how a serious conversation about pain relief "turns into the headline 'Kerr smokes pot.'"

"I'm actually kind of glad it became an issue because I think it's a very important issue to talk about, having gone through a tough spell over the last year with my own recovery back surgery, a lot of pain, chronic pain," he said. "... The issue that's really important is how do we do what's best for the players? But I understand that it's a perception issue around the country and the NFL, NBA, it's a business, so you don't want your customers thinking, 'These guys are a bunch of pot heads.' That's what it is. But to me it's only a matter of time before medicinal marijuana is allowed in sports leagues because the education will overwhelm the perception."

Green said he hasn't needed painkillers nor has he tried marijuana, never having a serious injury or requiring surgery. Guard Klay Thompson would support drugs for medicinal use only—this after he was arrested on charges of misdemeanor marijuana possession in early March 2011, in Pullman, Washington, during college at Washington State. He was suspended for a game.

"Steve's open-minded, and obviously with the way the world's going, if there's anything you can do that's medicinal, people are all for it, especially when there's stuff like Crohn's disease out there, glaucoma, a bunch of stuff, cancer," Thompson said. "But not recreationally, that should not be of its use ever. There's a medicinal side to it that people are finding out have benefits, especially people with really high pain."

California was the first state to embrace legal, medicinal marijuana two decades ago. Twenty-eight states and Washington, D.C., now allow marijuana for medical or recreational purposes.

Cowboys hold on against Vikings for 11th straight win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Dez Bryant sashayed through the Dallas locker room with an unmistakable swagger and had nothing but good things to say about his adversary this time around.

It was a stark change from a week ago, when he sparred with Washington cornerback Josh Norman on Thanksgiving. The trash talking Dez and the polite Dez share one thing in common: they both win.

Bryant caught four passes for 84 yards and the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, helping the Cowboys win their 11th straight game with a 17-15 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night.

In a hard-fought battle with cornerback Xavier Rhodes, Bryant's 56-yard catch set up Ezekiel Elliott's 1-yard TD in the first half. Bryant caught an 8-yard scoring pass in the fourth quarter after a fumbled punt by Minnesota's Adam Thielen.

"I knew coming into this game it was going to be a tough match and I had to be on my 'A' game," Bryant said. "Because if I wasn't, he can get the best of you. We had a good battle. We shared our thoughts throughout the game. It was good thoughts. It's nice playing games like that."

Elliott rushed for 86 yards on 20 carries for the Cowboys (11-1). They have the longest single-season winning streak in franchise history.

Sam Bradford threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Jerick McKinnon with 25 seconds to play, but the 2-point conversion pass failed. Bradford argued for a penalty after he was hit in the face by a defender, but there was no call for the Vikings (6-6). Minnesota played without coach Mike Zimmer after he had emergency eye surgery Wednesday night.

"I'm sick and tired of the reffing in this league right now," Vikings defensive end Brian Robison said. "I'm sick and tired of it. You've got holding calls all over the place that people don't want to call. Bradford gets hit in the face at the end of the game and you don't call it. I'm not laying this loss on reffing, but at some point it's got to get better."

Bradford completed 32 of 45 passes for 247 yards, Danielle Hunter had two sacks and Kai Forbath kicked three field goals for Minnesota, which has last six of the last seven games after a 5-0 start.

Vikings special teams coordinator Mike Priefer was elevated to head coach for the game and it remains unclear how long Zimmer will be out. Minnesota's third-ranked defense did their fiery leader proud, holding the explosive Cowboys offense to season lows in points, yards (264) and first downs (13).

"It's not the best game we played, but we showed up when we needed to and made the plays at the end," Elliott said.

AP

Dallas Cowboys cornerback Anthony Brown, right, breaks up a pass intended for Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Charles Johnson during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, in Minneapolis.

KEY PLAY

With Dallas' offense doing nothing, Kyle Wilber made the play of the game when he punched the ball out of Thielen's hand, then pulled the ball away as the two rolled to the turf. Officials initially did not catch the fumble, but a heads-up challenge by Jason Garrett got the call overturned and Prescott found Bryant on the next play.

CATCHLESS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Cowboys tight end Jason Witten did not catch a pass, snapping a team-record streak of 130 straight games with a reception dating to 2008.

A TD TO TIE TD

Elliott's 1-yard plunge in the second quarter gave Dallas a 7-3 lead. It was his 12th touchdown rushing this season, tying him with Tony Dorsett for most by a rookie in Cowboys history.

BRADFORD UNDER SEIGE

Playing behind a patchwork offensive line that included center Nick Easton making his first career start in place of the injured Joe Berger (concussion), Bradford was under pressure all night long from a Cowboys defense that has often struggled in that area this season.

Bradford was sacked three times and had to leave the game on the final drive of the second quarter after taking a helmet from Maliek Collins to his rib cage. After getting some medical attention during halftime, Bradford was able to remain in the game.

"I had to take a deep breath," he said. "After that they were fine."

The bad news on the injury front for the Vikings came for safety Harrison Smith, who left the locker room on crutches with a walking boot on his left foot. He has been fighting through an ankle injury over the last several weeks.

ZIMMER TRIBUTE

Before the game, the Vikings played a short video of Zimmer addressing the team during a practice. Zimmer's primary message: "Do your job."

That has been a common theme during his three seasons in Minnesota, and the organization likely wanted the players to hear it one more time before taking the field. After the video, a picture of Zimmer was put on the big screen with a "Get Well Soon" message attached.

"They fought to the bitter end, and I know coach Zimmer would've been very, very proud of them," Priefer said.

Brady on Gronk: We've still got a lot of good players

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots went back to practice without Rob Gronkowski on Friday as the 2015 All-Pro tight end prepared for season-ending back surgery.

It didn't look much different than a lot of their workouts this season.

"We've had some experience I think this year being without him," quarterback Tom Brady said a day after the team announced that Gronkowski is expected to miss the rest of the season recovering from a herniated disk in his back. "It's not something that you want to deal with. But at some point in the year, based on how long the season is, you're always going to deal with something."

One of the dominant tight ends in NFL history, Gronkowski's biggest struggle is often to stay on the field. He has had ankle and knee surgery once, three operations on his forearm, and two previous back operations. He was the 2014 Comeback Player of the Year, a year after he played in just seven games because of injuries to his back, forearm and knee.

The 2010 second-round draft pick has already missed three weeks this season and had a limited role in three others—the fifth year in a row that he hasn't been able to play in every game.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Friday he is disappointed for Gronkowski, praising his work and his contributions to the team. Brady made it clear that he still has plenty of targets for this weekend's game against the Los Angeles Rams, even without the three-time All-Pro.

"We've still got a lot of good players," Brady said. "We'll keep battling without him. We've got a lot of tough guys in the locker room still, and we'll see what we can make of this season. We were off to a good start and we've got to keep it going."

After spending the first half of the season on the injury report with a hamstring problem, Gronkowski was hurt again on Nov. 13. He took a shot in the chest from Seattle Seahawks safety Earl Thomas that Gronkowski said was "probably one of the hardest I've got hit in my career." He missed the Nov. 20 game against San Francisco; when he returned last week against the New York Jets, he left late in the first quarter with a back injury.

He did not practice this week.

On Thursday, the team and Gronkowski's family issued a joint statement saying the hit in the Seattle game resulted in a pulmonary contusion to his lung, but doctors cleared him to return. Against the Jets, though, "Rob began to experience significant back and leg pain."

"It has been determined that it is in Rob's best long-term interest to undergo surgery to address his lower back injury," the statement said. "We do not expect that he will be able to play for the remainder of the 2016 season, but will await the results of (Friday's) surgery before making a final determination."

One Gronkowski returned to the Patriots when the team re-signed fullback Glenn, Rob's brother, to the practice squad.

Chiefs' Berry, Texans' Jackson fined $24K for helmet hits

NEW YORK (AP)—Kansas City Chiefs safety Eric Berry and Houston Texans cornerback Kareem Jackson have each been fined $24,309 by the NFL for helmet-to-helmet hits last weekend.

Berry was docked Friday after he made direct contact with the helmet of Denver backup running back Kapri Bibbs in the first quarter of the Chiefs' 30-27 overtime victory last Sunday night. Bibbs left the game to be evaluated for a concussion, but later returned.

Jackson's hit on San Diego's Dontrelle Inman came in the fourth quarter of the Texans' 21-13 loss last Sunday and knocked the Chargers wide receiver's helmet off after a 25-yard reception.

Carolina backup quarterback Derek Anderson was fined $12,154 after being flagged for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for yelling at an official from the sideline in the second quarter of the Panthers' 35-32 loss at Oakland.

Panthers linebacker A.J. Klein was also docked $9,115 for a facemask penalty.

Angels' Pujols has foot surgery, could be sidelined 4 months

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Los Angeles Angels slugger Albert Pujols had surgery on his right foot Friday, possibly sidelining him past opening day.

Angels general manager Billy Eppler said Pujols had the procedure Friday in North Carolina to release his plantar fascia, the ligament connecting the heel to the toes. The three-time NL MVP was bothered by plantar fasciitis repeatedly during the season, but played through the pain in arguably the strongest year of his half-decade with the Angels.

Eppler said the surgery typically prevents players from participating in baseball activities for three months, along with another month before they're ready to resume playing in games. Opening day for Los Angeles is April 3, and the Angels hope Pujols can be ready.

"He's at that point in his career where he's keenly aware of what's happening with his body," Eppler said in a phone interview. "I don't put the timetable on Albert like you would with your younger players. We'll just see in Albert's case, as he progresses, what his timetable is."

Pujols, who turns 37 next month, batted .268 last year with 31 homers and 119 RBIs, the fourth-most in the majors—although his .780 OPS was among the worst of his career. He largely served as a designated hitter instead of playing first base due to problems with his hamstrings and feet.

Pujols heads into 2017 with 591 career homers, ranking him ninth in major league history. He is 18 homers behind Sammy Sosa for eighth place.

AP

In this Aug. 16, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols watches his three-run home run against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif.

AP source: Beltran reaches deal with Astros, $16M for 1 year

Carlos Beltran is headed back to Houston, hoping his 20th season in the majors could bring him—and the Astros—a most elusive World Series championship.

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Saturday that the free agent slugger and the Astros have reached a one-year deal for $16 million.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement. ESPN first reported the agreement.

Beltran joins a rich, revamped lineup, with Houston recently adding catcher Brian McCann and outfielder Josh Reddick to a talented, young nucleus.

Beltran, who turns 40 in April, hit a combined .295 with 29 home runs and 93 RBIs last season. The switch-hitter was traded from the New York Yankees to the Texas Rangers on Aug. 1 and split his time as a designated hitter and right fielder, playing 151 games.

A nine-time All-Star, Beltran has often excelled in October. His rise to postseason prominence began in his first playoff game, for Houston in 2004.

Acquired from Kansas City that summer, Beltran went on to hit a postseason record-tying eight homers in only 12 games while batting .435 with 14 RBIs, along with six steals. The Astros lost in the NL Championship Series to St. Louis that fall. In 2005, Beltran joined the New York Mets, while the Astros wound up getting swept by the White Sox in their only World Series appearance.

Beltran made his lone World Series appearance in 2013 with St. Louis, which lost to Boston in six games. Overall, he has hit .323 with 16 homers and 41 RBIs in 55 postseason games. ***(AP)***

8TH

From Page 28

who was jockeying for position against two Blue Haus players in the rebound play. For the technical foul infraction, Sison said Paraiso should have received a warning first.

Assistant league commissioner Lito Espino, who was present in the match, temporarily taking the place of commissioner Ed Manalili, said he conferred with the other referees and after their discussion, the league decided to stand by the earlier calls.

With the infraction against Paraiso staying, Save More opted not to continue the match despite the prodding from game officials. Sison also complained the change in the roster of referees for their semis match. He said Blue Haus requested exclusion of one of the referees from the original cast and it was a violation on the league's ground rule No. 10, stating that "any request to change the referee assignment will not be entertained."

Meanwhile, 8th Division worked its way back from a 15-point deficit early in the game to stun favored BSI-Blue Eagle and force a winner-take-all title match against Blue Haus tomorrow.

8th Division neutralized BSI-Blue Eagle gunner Douglas Schmidt in the last three quarters to overhaul its foes' lead and steal the win. Schmidt scored 11 straight points in the first quarter to give BSI-Blue Haus a 15-point lead twice, 19-4 and 21-6.

8th Division was held to 6 points in the first eight minutes of the game, but managed to pick up its scoring in the closing seconds of the opening frame to bring the deficit down to single digit, 12-21, entering the second canto. With its offense beginning to work, 8th Division's defense on Schmidt also started to pay dividends for the Amor Zapata-coached squad.

Dexter Tenorio, Maverick Itibus, and Alex Lauron alternately hounded Schmidt, while their teammates provided help defense. The moment Schmidt got the ball, two 8th Division players were all over him and the BSI-Blue Eagle main man took a lot of time trying to dribble out of his defenders. By the time Schmidt broke free, which happened only on a few occasions, he was tired and was not squared off for the shot. It did not help that majority of Schmidt's teammates were misfiring, too and Matt Duenas was stuck on the bench (except in the fourth) and could not get into his rhythm when fielded earlier.

With almost everything going against BSI-Blue Eagle's way, 8th Division stole the lead, 43-41, on Lauron's fastbreak layup, three minutes and change left in the third period. Schmidt, who made only a point in the second canto, was held to 3 in the third that ended with 8th Division still on top, 50-48.

A 6-3 run off Duenas' three consecutive baskets in the first two minutes of the fourth put BSI-Blue Eagle back on top, 54-53, but that was the last time the team had the lead. 8th Division sued for time after Duenas' string of points and countered with a 10-2 run to move closer to the finals. 8th Division went on to seal the deal in the last 1:36, as it won another exchange, 10-6, capped by Jun Tabora's pair of free throws that gave the squad its biggest lead, 73-62.

Schmidt and the BSI-Eagle's misfortunes continued at the very end, as the team missed its last five shots, including three from the former Palau national player. As a consolation, Schmidt knocked in two free throws for BSI-Blue Eagle's last 2 points. Schmidt still finished a game-high 17 points, but had only one field goal and three charities in the last three quarters. Melvin Villarin also earned 17 markers for BSI-Blue Eagle, while Duenas had a 12, 8 of them came in the fourth canto.

Tabora paced 8th Division with his 16 points, while Jun Alipio chipped in 14 and Lauron and Kelvin Fitial also finished in twin digits, adding 12 and 10, respectively. Rodney Catalla and Itibus combined for 17 more points for 8th Division.

8th Division 75 — D. Tabora 16, Alipio 14, Lauron 12, Fitial 10, Catalla 9, Itibus 8, Lansang 4, Tenorio 2,

BSI-Blue Eagle 64 — Schmidt 17, Villarin 17, Duenas 12, Pablo 9, Raho 6, Palino 2, Tobias 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-21, 32-39, 50-48, 75-64.

PH

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"I was only using my third gear after that problem and it was very difficult going uphill," said the Philippine Navy Standard Insurance biker, adding that despite the troubles with his bike he remained focused.

"I had an even worse accident in my previous race in 2013 when my helmet broke as I had a bad crash downhill in Baguio City. I just stayed focus and tried to catch up with the leaders. I knew that if I would just be behind by a few minutes, I could still chase them down and hopefully get the lead once we are on a flat road," said Morales, a known sprinter.

Morales' patience paid off, as he managed to gain the lead on their way out of Kingfisher Golf Links in Achugao and he kept his distance as the bikers headed back to Mariana Resort after going down Capitol Hill.

"I was happy I won in my first race here. It was one tough course because there are a lot of uphill roads and I am not a climber. There are also coral roads so it's a bit slippery," the 30-year-old biker said.

Galedo, who debuted, too in last weekend's event, was also happy for Morales, saying it was a win for the Philippine delegation.

"I could not pull away because the two Japanese (Nakamura and Morimoto) and Dorovskikh were all over me. I was also keeping an eye on them. Fortunately, Jan Paul had a chance to get a good lead in the late part of the race and win it for PH, so I am happy, too," the former Philippine team member added.

Nakamura admitted sticking close to Galedo and Dorovskikh that he and Morimoto forgot about Morales, especially after the latter had his second bike problem. Nakamura also sustained scratches on his arms and legs after crashing in Marpi. Another former "Hell" winner—Russia's Konstantin Fast—pulled out in the early part of the race because he was not feeling well, according to Vince Seman, president of the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

LEE

From Page 28

Loken won an extended game against Moris Villanueva last Friday, 6-2, 3-6, 10-3, while Cruz beat junior player Ji Min Woo, 6-1, 6-2. Loken then got his second straight victory and arranged a title duel against the top seeded Lee after prevailing against Cruz in the semis, 6-4, 6-2. Lee and Loken played in a shortened finale as organizers had to complete the rained-out matches in the second and final week of the annual tournament.

Meanwhile, Woo, after falling short in the men's 5.0 singles, triumphed in the men's 4.0 singles. The No. 1 seed Woo bagged the division title after stunning top-ranked Steven Goodwin, 6-3, 6-0.

Goodwin marched into the finals after winning over Jeffrey Seo, 6-3, 6-0. Woo set up the finals duel between the Top 2 seeded players in the field after dominating Seung Jin Paik in similar scores.

In the men's 3.0 singles, Bong Roluna got two free victories and went unbeaten in three games to take the division championship. He won over Felixberto Roluna via forfeiture and then defeated junior player Daniel Kang in the semis, 6-1, 6-3. In the finals, Roluno was also handed he win via walkover after a no-show from Edwin Simbulan, a 6-0, 6-2 winner over Chris Kim in the semis. Simbulan also swept Minkyu Song, 6-0, 6-0, to arrange a semis meeting with Chris Kim.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	6	.700	—
Boston	12	8	.600	2
New York	10	9	.526	3½
Brooklyn	5	14	.263	8½
Philadelphia	4	16	.200	10

Southeast Division

Charlotte	11	9	.550	—
Atlanta	10	11	.476	1½
Orlando	8	12	.400	3
Miami	7	13	.350	4
Washington	6	12	.333	4

Central Division

Cleveland	13	5	.722	—
Chicago	11	8	.579	2½
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	3
Detroit	11	10	.524	3½
Indiana	9	10	.474	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	16	4	.800	—
Houston	13	7	.650	3
Memphis	13	8	.619	3½
New Orleans	7	13	.350	9
Dallas	4	15	.211	11½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	12	8	.600	—
Utah	12	9	.571	½
Portland	11	10	.524	1½
Denver	7	13	.350	5
Minnesota	6	14	.300	6

Pacific Division

Golden State	17	3	.850	—
L.A. Clippers	16	5	.762	1½
L.A. Lakers	10	12	.455	8
Sacramento	7	12	.368	9½
Phoenix	6	14	.300	11

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic Week 1

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Min Gi Jung makes a return during his and Jae Yun Jung's boys U12 doubles game against Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire in the opening week of the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court.

Ken Song jumps up a serve to Michael Ren during their boys U16 singles finals game.

Marian Gregoire uses both her hands for a shot to Coume Kaga in their girls U14 singles semis tiff.

Tania Tan, right, and Coume Kaga exchange high-fives after scoring a point against Conatsu Kaga and Malika Miyawaki in the girls U16 doubles.

Sean Lee makes a backline return to Ji Min Woo during their boys U14 singles title match.

Lahunn Lam hits the ball during his boys U10 singles match against Nason Wessel.

Ji Min Woo is about to hit the ball during his boys U14 singles title match against Sean Lee.

Conatsu Kaga eyes the ball during her girls U14 finals duel against her younger sister Coume.

Warriors at 106 regular season games without losing 2 in row

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cowboys hold on against Vikings for 11th straight win

PAGE 25

PH pro wins 'Hell' debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The early favorites in last Saturday's 10th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race were too busy keeping an eye on each other that they forgot about Jan Paul Morales.

Morales stunned his competitors and the spectators waiting at the finish line at the Mariana Resort & Spa as he completed the 100-kilometer race around the island first with a time of 3:04:50. He defeated Japanese Makoto Morimoto (3:05:32), fellow Filipino pro Mark John Galedo (3:06:17), Russia's Alexandr Dorovskikh (3:07:56), 2015 champion Ryutaro Nakamura (3:13:37), triathlete Joseph Miller (3:19:42) and Korea's Young Jae Lee (4:17:15), Il Jung (5:12:36), and Chulyong Park (6:25:26) in the men's open division.

Galedo, Nakamura, Morimoto, Dorovskikh, and Morales rode together for the majority of the race with the former on the tail end of the lead pack as he had problems with his bike twice. The first one came early when he hit the back of a car going downhill out of the Suicide Cliff. Morales sustained bruises on his arms and legs, while his front wheel was damaged and had to be replaced. He lost a few minutes due to the accident, while the pacesetters continued to watch each other.

Morales eventually caught up with Galedo and company on their way to Beach Road, but fell behind anew when he encountered problems with his gear set while passing along Airport Road.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Philippine pro biker Jan Paul acknowledges the crowd waiting for him at the finish line in Mariana Resort during last Saturday's 10th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Lee rules men's singles field

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee stretches for a return during her and Steven Goodwin's doubles match against Jeff Race and Isabel Heras yesterday in the 8th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The lone female player in the men's 5.0 singles event in the 8th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic was also the only one left standing at the conclusion of the competition yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Carol Lee survived the men's field, clinching the division title after easing past Saipan Tennis Academy coach Peter Loken, 4-0, 4-1. Lee also swept her two other foes in the upper half of the bracket on her way to a finals showdown against Loken. The world ranked No. 471 first outclassed Ken Song last Friday, 6-3, 6-1, and then topped Michael Ren in the semis last Saturday, 6-4, 6-3. Ren defeated Vincent Tudela, 6-4, 6-2, to book a semis berth at the top half of the draw.

At the lower half Loken and the second-seeded Bobby Cruz advanced to the semis after posting contrasting wins last weekend.

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8th Division vs Ali'i Blue Haus in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

8th Division/MAFEA and Ali'i Blue Haus/Bayani prevailed in the walkout-marred semifinal round of the 2016 UFO/IT&E Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The No. 1 seed Blue Haus got a free ride to the finals after Save More/MIFICPA walked out from their semis game, while 8th Division pulled off a come-from-behind 75-64 victory over the second-ranked Best Sunshine International-Blue Eagles to clinch the last finals berth.

Save More/MIFICPA left the court, with still 7:56 left in the second quarter and the team holding a slim 26-24 lead, in protest of the back-to-back fouls charged on Rolly Paraiso. The Save More forward was called for a foul on Darwin Barbo in a battle for the rebound, according to head referee Richard Babac. Babac later gave Paraiso another foul—technical and his fourth—for excessive complaining and showing disrespect to the referee.

Save More captain Marlon Sison in a separate interview, contested the two calls, saying the first one was wrong because it was Andrew Ashburn

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
8th Division/MAFEA's Maverick Itibus, right, collides in midair with Best Sunshine International-Blue Eagle's Douglas Schmidt during the third quarter of their semis game in the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.